

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

OF

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. VI.]

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1832.

[No. 271

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe.

We received yesterday our regular Files of London Papers up to the 18th of June inclusive. The contents of the Papers previous to the 12th of that month have been already before the Indian Public for several weeks past. We shall commence therefore at that date, and follow up the series of leading articles of News from thence to the latest period, reserving the longer pieces for subsequent publication as we can command space.

In the TIMES of June 12, the following Ships are advertised for Calcutta:—The *WOODFORD*, to be in the Downs on the 7th of July; the *THAMES* to leave Gravesend on the 16th of June; the *CITY OF EDINBURGH* to sail on the 15th of June and touch at Columbo on her way; and the *SIR EDWARD PAGET*, to leave Gravesend on the 20th of June for Portsmouth to take in Passengers, and to touch at Madras on her way out.

The subjects of the Parliamentary Proceedings contained in the Paper of the 12th of June, are principally the Salt Tax, and the Act for Resumption of Cash Payments, the Debate on this last will be found reported at length in a subsequent Sheet. A spirited Public Meeting in the County of Kent on the subject of Agricultural Distress and Parliamentary Reform, is also reported in the TIMES of the 12th. Among the Speakers, we notice particularly Mr. Foote, Mr. Ryder, the Earl of Darnley, Sir E. Knatchbull, Mr. Larkins who contended that nothing but Parliamentary Reform could save the country from ruin, which seemed indeed the unanimous sense of the Meeting, and was carried by an immense majority.

The following are from the TIMES of the 12th of June:—

London, June 12, 1832.—The duel between Messrs. de FORBIN DES ISSARTS and B. CONSTANT is the only fact which throws an air of interest over the columns of the French newspapers. The latter has had occasion before to vindicate his politics in a similar manner. In 1815, on the occasion, we believe, of his sudden change of sides, when the Government changed its master, M. B. CONSTANT fought with M. de MONTLOZIER, and wounded him, as the squibs of the day described it, in "the pen hand." Nor is a duel in an arm-chair altogether without precedent. We recollect to have heard of an Irish Gentleman trying the same experiment—and, from its effect (said the doctor) on the nervous system, thereby curing himself of a fit of the gout!

Poor of Ireland.—It would be a grateful circumstance to our own hearts, if we could conscientiously inform those of our readers whose generous feelings have been so well displayed in subscriptions and other exertions on behalf of the Poor of Ireland, that charity had by this time done its work, and that the course of human suffering had been so arrested, or even so retarded, as to extinguish all further claim to the labours and sacrifices of affluent individuals in the cause: but we much fear that the relief administered, however prompt and extensive, is far from being yet equal to the occasion. That a tendency to exaggerate the general distress may have been detected in some of the Irish news-writers, is no proof, unhappily, that the evil required exaggeration, to impress the humane mind

with a dreadful conviction of its magnitude. The people in some of the more distant counties continue, we are afraid, to sicken, and to die, of *hunger*, not in detached or peculiar cases, but by whole families; nay, by more than families—by large portions of the population throughout whole villages and districts of the south-west of Ireland—a part of the country consisting in a great measure of sea-coast, and where every shore and harbour might and must, under any reasonable management of the gifts of Providence, be made the seat of an overflowing supply of wholesome food, extracted from that element whose produce bids defiance to the seasons. But, however, we may justly lament the supineness of the inhabitants, and more especially of the upper classes on the coasts of Connaught and Munster, whose incumbent and long-neglected duty it is to stimulate the general industry of the population, this is a season rather for relief than for reproaches. If, indeed, the conductors of the vicious system were the only sufferers by it, we might be willing to let justice take its course: but the ignorant peasantry, who alone of all ranks of Irishmen stand guiltless of the crime of maladministration in some shape or other, are the exclusive victims of its worst consequences; and we greatly fear that, without a further continuance of the noble efforts so long directed in this country to their support, and so lately begun in Ireland, a cessation of their present misery is yet a far distant good. We do not copy the almost endless catalogue of horrors which fill the Dublin prints, and many of which are, we grieve to say, authenticated by private intelligence from the country. Fever has, in some places grown out of famine: the dread of contagion, therefore, begins now to affect in their own persons those members of society who have, perhaps, not always shown a sufficient tenderness towards a class of sufferers from which they were themselves exempted. But we are forced to conclude by repeating, that the aggregate of evil is not diminished among our unhappy fellow-subjects, and that the flow of British charity cannot yet with safety be suffered to subside.

Constantinople.—By the Hamburg mail which arrived yesterday, letters from Constantinople to the 11th ult. have been received. The following is an extract from one of them:—"The hopes of peace augment daily. An official note has been promulgated by the Government, announcing that by the 5th of this month the principalities would be quite evacuated by the Turkish armies. This boon has not, however, been obtained without great exertion on the part of Lord Strangford, who is said, at one period of the negotiation, finding the Divan continued reluctant, to have freely employed menaces. The tranquillity of this place is preserved, but the people are not restrained from disorders without frequent arrests of those Greeks connected with the island of Scio or the Morea. On the other hand, the 12 deputies from Walachia and Moldavia have experienced a most gracious reception. A splendid palace has been assigned them for a residence, with every suitable convenience. They have had several conferences with the Reis Effendi and with Haleb Effendi, and it is said that two of their number will be nominated to the rank of Princes."

Salt Tax.—The presentation of petitions last night against the *remaining*, or what may perhaps be more properly called the

new salt-duty, led to the discussion of the tax generally. There were some opinions that were novel in themselves; others that were rendered striking by the quarters from whence they sprang. One hon. Member professed boldly, and in gallant defiance of vulgar prejudices, that he would vote for the total repeal of the salt-duty, if it were proposed by Ministers; and that he would vote against it, if proposed by an opponent of Ministers. This is good logic: Right is right, if it comes from the men in power; but right is wrong, when recommended by those out of power: and, by the same rule, wrong is right, if those who are under authority so say. These are the dialectics, however, of which the nation complains, and which, it is asserted, have brought it into its present state. Anciently, Parliaments used to control Ministers. Here it is averred that Parliament should follow Ministers, and adapt its convictions to their prescriptions; at least there is one member who avows his determination to do so.

Mr. Wodehouse considered the present as a new tax, and expressed a very just opinion that this is no time for the imposition of new taxes. Had honourable Gentlemen maintained this same doctrine when three millions of new taxes were imposed since the war—when ten thousand men were added to the army—when all the Windsor extravagances passed the House—an establishment for the good old unconscious KING—an establishment for his QUEEN—ten thousand a year to the Duke of York for merely visiting his afflicted Father;—had honourable Gentlemen, we say, held those same opinions some five or six years ago, when the above cruel iniquities were sanctioned,—had they held them from choice, instead of necessity, the situation of the country would not have been such as it is. It is only through “wilful waste that we are now suffering “woful want.” “Wilful waste,” says the sensible proverb, “brings woful want.”

Serbia, May 20.—The post from Salonichi and Seres at length arrived yesterday at Belgrade, and brought accounts very unfavourable to the cause of the Greeks. The Pasha of Salonichi had received reinforcements, and had defeated the Greeks near Jerizza. After this, he fell upon thirty Greek villages, and carried away the women and children as slaves. The Christians at Salonichi have purchased many of these unfortunate persons for three or four piasters, in order to rescue them from the wretched fate that awaited them.

In the TIMES of the 13th, the Debate on the Cash Payment Act is continued at great length;—there is also a Report of a meeting at the India House on the Sugar Question, in which Mr. Ricardo, Mr. Charles Forbes, and Mr. Trant were Speakers:—the Meeting was adjourned to the following Wednesday, June 19.

At the Levee of the King, an account of which appears in the same Paper, we observe that among the Presentations were, Mr. Washington Irving, Author of the Sketch Book. Sir Rufane Donkin, Sir John Malcolm, Sir Hudson Lowe, Sir Miles Nightingall, Sir William Grant Keir, Sir Thomas Hislop, Mr. Rae Wilson, on his return from his Travels in Palestine, Doctor Richardson, Author of Travels along the Mediterranean, Sir Edward Hyde East on his return from India. Mr. Bishop, to present his Music “The Law of Java.” Lieutenant Bisset and Dr. Woods, Madras Army, and Captain Crossley, of the Bengal Army.

The following paragraphs are from the TIMES of June 13th:—

London, June 13, 1822.—We have received by express certain documents from Paris, contained in the official part of the MONITEUR of Monday last. These are the address of the Chamber of Peers to the King on the opening of the Session, and his Majesty's reply. We should not have thus particularly remarked the arrival of Ordinary State Papers, but the last of them is rendered interesting by the confirmation which it affords of a fact already announced here, and of the greatest importance to Europe. The King, in his reply to the address of the Peers, states, “That it is with the most sincere pleasure that he informs the Chamber, that he has received news since the opening of the ses-

sion which announce that peace will not be disturbed in the East; and that he feels a lively satisfaction in imparting the knowledge of this fact.” Thus, then, terminate for the present, we presume, all the speculations that were founded on a war between Russia and Turkey. To speak with certainty, or the affectation of certainty, of the issue of discussion carried on with such a Government as that of the Sublime Porte, would have been rash; but the public will recollect that, during every stage of this very protracted discussion, we have never ceased from expressing our opinion, that matters would terminate peaceably; others who have spoken with more confidence, will now appear to have been more in error. Above all, the French politicians of the Bounapartist school, with whom “might was right,” have been wofully in the wrong. They could not conceive that the Emperor Alexander, who appeared to have the power of overthrowing the Turkish empire, would want the will! With respect to his Imperial Majesty, we now adhere with more confidence than before to our opinion of his conduct. He may occulently be the most ambitious man alive, but he has as yet given no indication of any readiness to sacrifice the sense of justice to the hope of personal aggrandizement: and we think it unfair reasoning to infer at once from the simple possession of a great empire, the disposition to make it larger by injustice and oppression. Whenever his Majesty does outstep the bounds of moderation, we hope we shall be the first to notice and reprehend his conduct.

And now an inquiry naturally springs up even among those who do not wish to make war for war's sake—What is to become of the poor Greeks? Most fervently do we wish for their success; but, if possible, yet more than for their success generally, do we pray that they may obtain it by their own valour; for if liberty were put into their hands by any Foreign Power, they would not know how to enjoy or use it wisely; and if any other nation but themselves subdued the Turks for them, to that nation would they become enslaved—they would only change masters.

We subjoin the reply of the King of France to the address of the Peers, in which the important fact on which we have been commenting is contained. The address of the Peers is merely formal:—

“I am deeply affected with the sentiments expressed towards me by the Chamber of Peers: I feel very great satisfaction at their eagerness to answer the appeal which I made to them, and at the unanimous agreement which prevailed in their deliberations. It is by such concord that we shall succeed in stifling the efforts of malevolence—efforts which will ever be to no purpose. It is with the most sincere pleasure I inform the Chamber, that I have received, since the opening of the Session, intelligence which announces that peace will not be disturbed in the East. I feel a lively satisfaction in imparting a knowledge of this fact.”—

The great length of the debate compels us to differ till tomorrow our remarks on Mr. Western's motion. The house divided at 3 o'clock this morning, when the number stood as follows:—For the amendment, 194; against it, 30—Majority 164.

Yesterday morning the Princess Augusta visited his Majesty, and spent a considerable time with the King.

A ballot was yesterday taken at Lloyd's upon a proposition to vote 500*l.* from their funds for the Irish subscription, when it was lost by a majority of 23; the numbers being for the vote 246, and against it 269.

The Concert for the benefit of the Irish poor was given last night at the Mansion-house, when the Egyptian hall was, by favour of the Lord Mayor, fitted up in expectation of a numerous company. All the leading members of the musical world, foreign as well as British (with one or two exception), came generously forward to support the cause of charity. The music in general was well selected, from Cherubini, Rossini, Mozart, and others. The audience, however, was by no means crowded, notwithstanding the distinguished names of the Patronesses; though there is

reason to believe, that at the west end of the town a considerable number of tickets were paid for, by families who found it inconvenient to attend. Refreshments for the company were liberally provided in an adjoining apartment; and those of the Lady Patronesses, and their friends who were present, were invited to supper with the Lord and Lady Mayoress.

Irish Committee.—Their Lordships the Postmasters-General have been pleased to order, that all letters addressed to the committee at the City of London tavern, shall pass free of postage, provided such letters be enclosed in covers, having the following inscription: "On the business of the committee for the relief of the distressed Irish."

An Official return to an order of the House of Commons, states the amount of the balance in the hands of the Treasury of the county of Middlesex, on the 15th April, 1822, at 16,974l. 16s. 6d.

The inspection of the persons of the two men confined in Barking gaol, suspected of being the murderers of Mrs. Donatty, took place on Saturday. All the witnesses who had seen persons near the house on the night of the murder inspected the persons of these suspected men. Mrs. Trench and Mrs. Jeff's thought there was some resemblance between *Falkner*, one of the prisoners, but neither of them could swear to his person; and the other witnesses did not think there was any resemblance between the prisoners and the persons they had seen; and thus the matter rests at present.

The Debate on the Irish Tithes is reported in the *TIMES* of the 14th of June. The first portion of the Trial of Mr. Stuart, who was engaged in the Fatal Duel with the late Sir Alexander Boswell, is also contained in the same Paper. As we propose giving early publication to this, we shall defer any remarks on the Trial for the present. The following is from the Paper of the 14th:—

London, Friday, June 14, 1822.—The German mail of yesterday states one circumstance of a nature to prove, that so far as the actual movements of the Porte could be considered any index of the expectations of that Cabinet, an immediate rupture with Russia never was thought of within the walls of the Seraglio. It is confidently asserted, that the number of Turkish troops in Moldavia and Wallachia have not exceeded 8,000 for both these frontier provinces.

A long and animated Debate on the State of Ireland is contained in the *TIMES* of the 15th, the Marquis of Lansdown having introduced the subject in the House of Lords. In the House of Commons the Salt Tax came again under consideration, and the Petition respecting Parliamentary Reform was presented from the County of Kent. The Second Reading of the Alien Bill was moved by Mr. Peel, and Sir James Mackintosh spoke at great length and with great eloquence on the subject, but the Bill was read a second time, the majority for Ministers being 34.

The Trial of Mr. Stuart is continued and concluded in the Paper of this date, the Verdict of "NOT GUILTY" being received by a very crowded Court with loud cheers.

The following paragraphs are from the *TIMES* of the 15th. We scarcely thought it possible yesterday that we should so soon have to copy from an English Paper remarks that apply so forcibly to an Indian one, as some of these hereafter quoted will be found to be.

London, June 15, 1822.—The *AUSTRIAN OBSERVER* of the 3d instant, which has reached us by express, contains a paragraph, confirmatory of the pacific termination of the negotiation in the East, if, indeed, any confirmation had been required after the positive declaration of the King of France to the Chamber of Peers. On the 6th of May, this paper observes, it was announced in the Divan, at which the Chiefs of the Janissaries were present, that the evacuation of the principalities was decided on, and that henceforth the places of the Hospodars would be filled

with natives. This determination, it is added, was heard with unanimous satisfaction.

We have received advices from Madrid to the 7th instant. The intelligence which they bring is of considerable interest. A *GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY* was published at Madrid on the 3d instant, containing an account by authority of a commotion which took place at Valencia on the 30th of May, which arose from an insignificant cause, and which terminated without any result, though for a few hours it occasioned not a little alarm. In the evening of that day, on the entry of a detachment of artillery into the citadel to fire the ordinary round, a cry was raised of "Long live the absolute King!" "Long live Elío!" and "Down with the Constitution!" The persons who joined in this seditious tumult consisted of between 70 and 80, who deposed their Commandant, and proclaimed Elío as their chief. As soon as the military authorities heard of this mad attempt, they presented themselves at the gate, and endeavoured to undeceive the insurgents, in order to prevent the necessity of resorting to acts of rigour. Entreaties were fruitless, and force became indispensable. The regiment of Zamora, battalions of national militia, the pupils of the military college, and all classes of the citizens, in a short time surrounded the fortress, and as the insurgents still refused to yield, opened a fire upon it at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 31st ult. At seven o'clock the infuriated men surrendered at discretion, and were lodged in prison to wait the award of law. This affray was attended with little bloodshed; one of the insurgents only being killed, and three wounded. The Officers of the rebellious artillery men refused to take any part with them, even though their lives were threatened. Elío, who was too prudent to place himself at the head of this undisciplined rabble, has, however, taken advantage of the confusion which it created to effect his escape from an almost hopeless confinement, and has taken refuge in an asylum nearly as hopeless. He is said to have retired into the powder-magazine, and threatens to blow it up if any one approaches to apprehend him. It is stated in a letter from Madrid, of the 6th, that the Cortes had rejected the proposition of M. Ferrer against the new loan by a great majority. The rejection of it was never for a moment doubted.

The King of France's speech to the Deputies, which appears in the *PARIS JOURNALS* of Wednesday, contains the same statement as the reply to the Peers, of the amicable arrangement of the dispute between Russia and the Porte. There is some other matter a little more romantic or sentimental in the speech. His Majesty sighs, but in vain, for an universal peace—such as that of which HENRY IV. was attempting to lay the foundation, when the hand of a horrible assassin intercepted the benevolent purpose. The wish of his present Majesty is thought to be more particularly directed to Spain. However, should he extend his contemplation to the whole of the Spanish dominions, he will find that the scene of warfare has been greatly diminished since his restoration. Peace is established in the late trans-Atlantic dominions of Spain, which six years ago were ravaged by all the horrors of civil war. We fervently pray with his Majesty for the tranquillization of the Peninsula also, but upon the basis of civil liberty. Still the war between the Greeks and Turks will remain; but a war for freedom is a more happy, or at least a more hopeful state, than the peace of slavery.

We subjoin a translation of his Majesty's reply to the Chamber of Deputies:—

"I have been extremely affected with the readiness which the Deputies of the Departments have shown to answer any appeal to them; but I feel still more sensibly the sentiments expressed towards me by the Chamber. They are in all points conformable to my own. It is by this agreement and concord that we shall succeed in settling the prosperity of France. The Chamber may rely on the sincerity of my Government in all that concerns the finances, and on my firmness in triumphing over the efforts of the malevolent. Peace,—that general peace, the object of the wishes of Henry IV.,—it may not perhaps be given me to see; but I have the satisfaction of announcing to the Chamber, that the

news which I have received are very favourable to the maintenance of peace in the East, and give me reason to hope the entire re-establishment of tranquillity in that quarter."

Funds in Paris, Wednesday, June 12.—Five per cents., 91f. 50c.; Bank Actions, 1,630f.; Neapolitan Stock, 72½; Exchange on London, one month, 25f. 40c.; three months, 25f. 20c.

In part of our impression we yesterday gave the verdict of the jury in Mr. STEUART's trial for killing Sir ALEXANDER BOSWELL in a duel, and that portion of the evidence then omitted is contained in this day's JOURNAL. The verdict is such as might have been expected. The accused is unanimously acquitted in the most prompt and honourable manner. This verdict we have no doubt will be satisfactory to all men of all parties, who possess the hearts of men. We shall, however, offer a few remarks upon the unfortunate affair which is thus terminated.

The Lord Justice Clerk, in summing up the evidence, spoke in the following terms of Mr. STEUART:—"Now, in the whole course of his practice he never had heard higher, or more distinct and discriminate praise bestowed on any character. In good taste, the evidence on this part of the case consisted of gentlemen, opponents, to the prisoner in politics. One gentleman had stated, that he never knew one who had more of the milk of human kindness. Another had been his acquaintance for twenty years, and during that period he had never heard him utter an angry word. Mr. Hay Donaldson, a person well qualified to judge, had given a similar evidence."

We must also further notice, that the seconds, who were present at the trial, and narrowly observed the conduct of Mr. Stuart, deposed, in the most unqualified manner, to the fearless firmness of his behaviour, while he had a right to consider his person as in danger, and to the tenderness of his heart when his fire had unluckily taken effect upon his antagonist. Now this is the man whom a journal, commenced and conducted on the odious principle of vilifying private character, had represented as a bully and a coward, and had thus forced into the field in order to vindicate his honour. Of his opponent we say nothing beyond lamenting the indiscretion and untimely fate. It was the GLASGOW SENTINEL that was the murderer in this case. It first attempted to murder Mr. Stuart: one of the shot which it fired rebounded and struck the person of a soldier combating under its banners. This is the statement of the fact. But in what terms too reprehensible, can we, with such an example before us, speak of newspapers conducted upon the principle of personal defamation? Every man has a right to designate the political and public acts of others, as he thinks they deserve; but to ransack family history—to slander the private character of those who are opposed to us on political grounds, are acts which but too frequently bring murder in their train, and are, indeed, rarely inferior to that most abhorred of crimes in criminality.

We should perhaps not have expressed ourselves thus strongly, had we been speaking of only one offender. But we have also a murderer newspaper in England. In this country, too, was a weekly publication sent into the world for the exclusive purpose of personal abuse—above all, the abuse of females. And we have heard that even Bishops and Judges took it in. Such are the moral feelings of those two classes of men, in the present day! Such are the Hales and Tillotsons of the 19th century. We are, however, not without the hope of seeing the contributors to that infamous print brought to justice; and to a very different kind of justice from that to which the responsible agents have been subjected. Abhorrence and contempt must till that time be satisfied to issue forth their sentences on the suspected criminals.

The TIMES of the 17th has some long and able Editorial articles for which we cannot find room to-day, but to which we shall give an early place. It being issued on Monday, there are no Parliamentary Debates reported in it, as none could have occurred on the preceding day.

In the TIMES of the 18th of June, the Ships COLDSTREAM and ANN AND AMELIA are advertised for Bengal, both to leave

about the 30th of June. The Parliamentary Debates include the consideration of the Navigation Laws and the State of Ireland with other minor subjects.

The following paragraphs are from the TIMES of the 18th of June, the latest Paper received.

London, Tuesday, June 18, 1822.—We have received the Paris papers of Saturday: they contain nothing worth extracting.

The repose hitherto enjoyed by Portugal, in the midst of revolution, appears by accounts from Lisbon, which arrived yesterday, to have been on the eve of experiencing some disturbance.

A conspiracy has been detected, the objects of which were, to depose the KING, to nominate the Infant MICHAEL as the head of the Regency, to dissolve the Cortes, and establish a new legislative body, consisting of two houses—the upper Chamber to be composed of the hereditary nobility, and probably (although it is not so specified) of some among the higher ecclesiastics. Finally, to murder all those members of the present Cortes and of the Ministry, who are distinguished by their attachment to the free constitution of Portugal.

Such are the views ascribed to the authors of this conspiracy. Five men were in custody, all of whom were seized in the night between the 1st and 2d inst.; and though among them there was not any individual of superior rank or importance, there is reason for believing that they were secretly in connexion with many persons of high station and influence. Their designs are gathered from a number of incendiary proclamations found upon them, which they had taken out of a printing-office for immediate distribution.

Some of those causes which were from the beginning calculated to produce assaults upon the Spanish constitution might have been expected, ere now, to give birth to similar results in Portugal, had they not been exposed to a more powerful resistance from the greater activity and concentration of the public sentiment, and perhaps from the greater prudence or integrity of the Court. The nobles and high churchmen of Portugal have, like those of Spain, been stripped of their ascendancy: and as it is hardly in nature that men should acquiesce at once in the loss of all which served to pamper the intoxication of pride and the abuse of power, so far from finding reason to wonder at the discovery of a single plot, we are rather disposed to see an evidence of the force which freedom has already acquired among the people of Portugal, in the fact that its natural enemies have been so long discouraged from attempting its overthrow, even by secret machinations. We do not mean, in the absence of detailed and authentic proofs, to make a guess at the real extent of this conspiracy, or at the amount of danger which the Government has escaped by its detection. The Minister of Justice (CARVALHO) appears to have displayed both firmness and foresight. It is clear that he must have had his suspicions awakened, when he lately applied for a suspension of the Habeas Corpus act: and the mildness with which he exercised the absolute power conceded to him, was as much to be admired as was the sagacity which led him to demand it. No suspected or guilty persons were restrained or coerced by M. CARVALHO, except in the shape of a removal from Lisbon to such a distance as would prevent them from aiding in the traitorous measures there hatched against the constitution. It is alleged in the private letters which have arrived at the same time with the official accounts, but we trust, for the honour of our own country, without reason, that a British nobleman was on the list of persons engaged in this atrocious enterprise.

Welsh Clergyman.—A Welsh Clergyman applied to his diocesan for a living. The Bishop promised him one; but as the Parson was taking his leave, he expressed a hope that his Lordship would not send him into the interior of this principality, as his wife could not speak Welsh. "Your wife Sir!" said the Bishop—"What has your wife to do with it?" she does not preach, does she?" "No, my Lord," said the Parson, "but she lectures."

MISCELLANEOUS.

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From Blackwood's Last Number.

CALCUTTA.—CHAPTER III.—ARTISTS AND PAINTINGS.

On the following morning, after the usual ride round the course, we proceeded to a most substantial breakfast, consisting of ham, eggs, rice, fish, sweetmeats, and preserves, besides the other et cetera which constitute that meal in England; and that diseased, I went to call on some gentlemen, with Mr. Fanning as a cicerone, which procured me an introduction to a number of wealthy agents, and half a dozen invitations to dinner at different periods.

It is to be hoped that the word *agent* will not suggest to your Edinburgh readers the idea of a prim, stiff man of law, seated in the penetralia of his dwelling, surrounded with tables loaded with files of papers, and green boxes, ostentatiously labelled with the name of the unfortunate individual whose estate they contain; and which, I believe, o' my conscience, are exhibited on the same principle that induces sailors to nail up tails of dolphins and other fish who have acted so like gudgeons as to let themselves be caught. Nor at the sound *agency* let them conceive an Edinburgh pawn-broker's shop, where are exposed for sale, flutes, books, seals, trinkets, and fowling-pieces, the ex-moveables of some unfortunate student of medicine, and placed there to give him the means of escaping the clutches of the tradesmen from whom he obtained them. A Calcutta agent, save that he has (in common with all mercantile men,) the keen eye to his own interest, so prominent in the one, and the close gripe in business transactions, proverbial to the other, resembles neither of these; he is the great mercantile leviathan of the east, combining in his own person the characters of banker, merchant, ship-owner, and underwriter; and holding the funds, is often the partner of the indigo planter and manufacturer. To all these he may be said, in some degree, to add the functions of shopkeeper; for though these gentlemen do not, like the *select men* of America, stand behind the counter of a *store* (*anglice*, shop) yet goods are advertised by them in retail quantities,—their gentility occasionally being saved from compromise, by some one of their clerks, (whom they, in imitation of the Yankees, style assistant,) signing the advertisement.

This body, though unconnected with the honourable Company, which, in that part of the world, like the king in this, is the source of all honour, is still held in high consideration in India. This high station they do not derive from any mental superiority; for though there are many among them, particularly those who have been educated for other professions, possessing intellect and information that would adorn any circle of society, yet the mass are not much above the scale of the pilots I have described, and certainly not upon a par with the generality of the skippers who sail their ships. But they possess one power to which the civil servant, however unwillingly, must bow down; and that is, the command of money; for though these gentlemen deem themselves of higher rank, and their claim is allowed in a grand party, yet the enjoyment of this elevation is much modified by the recollection frequently obtruded upon them, that they either are, or may be, in the power of the agent, as few of them are independent of his aid; and should they at any time assume too much, they might, in the day of trouble, be repulsed with the taunt of Shylock, "Hath a dog monies?"

After accomplishing our calls to these people of worship, Mr. F. took me to Mr. Cheyne's, to see a portrait of himself, (Mr. F.) which that artist was about to finish. When we first entered the house, we were had, as John Bunyan would express it, into a room, where as Mr. C. was engaged at his easel, we had some minutes to wait. This gave us an opportunity of looking at some of his best pictures. As most of these were portraits of people with whom I was unacquainted, they did not occupy my attention so much as a fine historical painting which almost filled one end of the room. The subject was, the delivering up the children of Tinpoo Sahib as hostages to Lord Cornwallis. The scene was laid before Seringapatam; the walls of which, in the distance,

were partially obscured by the smoke of a salute firing from the ramparts. The management of the whole was admirable; the group, though immense, was arranged without either confusion or stiffness; and the principal figures, Lord C., his staff, and the children, were prominent, though apparently not pushed forward. One which struck me most, was an old Hindoo vakeel, or ambassador, lame, and borne in a silver chair to witness this splendid degradation of his master's family—every line of whose venerable and care-worn face, seemed to express a lamentation on the instability of human greatness, and formed a striking contrast to the mirthful, polished faces of the young princes, animated by the pomp and circumstance of the surrounding pageant. The numerous crowd behind were all portraits; and from the individuality of feature, more especially the high cheek-boned harshness of some of my countrymen, I felt they must have been like.

I was given to understand that it was the work of an unfortunate son of genius, named Devis, I think; and from its high finish, and minuteness of detail must have cost him the labour of years; but in an hour of necessity, he had sold it for a mere trifle, to one of those cognoscenti who make their knowledge of the fine arts the means of gratifying their rapacity, and hover round ill-fated artists, as vultures and carrion-crows round sickly cattle in hopes of making a prey of them.

I had not done admiring this splendid production, when Mr. C. entered the room, with his pallet on his thumb, and his mahl and brushes in his hand. He was a smart, active, little man, about the middle age; his face by no means handsome but marked with a quick shrewd expression; and that no part of it might be lost, his hair was turned off his brow by a semi-circular comb, such as I have seen used by girls in this country, extending from the ears across the forehead; his manner and enunciation were *vif* and rapid, and the spring in his gait, as he whisk'd from place to place demonstrated that neither a tropical climate, nor a sedentary profession, had subdued a frame naturally active and vigorous.

He took us into his study, where he was in the act of finishing a picture of a baronet and his lady; they were dressed in the Spanish costume, and made one of the handsomest couples I ever had seen. Family pictures are notoriously dull and stupid in general; for a mere portrait painter, after he has bestowed a book on the gentleman, (a superfluous gift, for he never reads it,) and placed a flower in the fair hand of mamma, leaves them in a state of such fashionable nonchalance as to each other's employments, that unless we are to suppose that they are personifying the husband and wife of Hogarth's *Marriage à-la-Mode*, we are at a loss to discover what brought them together on the same canvas. With C. the very reverse is the case; he seems to require something of a story in his picture to call forth all his energies; he is happier in his family groupings than perhaps any artist I have ever known, and his style has a boldness and strength in it that I can only explain by comparing it to that of Mr. John Watson of Edinburgh.

The picture we came to see (a small full-length of my friend Fanning) was a masterpiece of its kind. He was in full dress, in a ball-room—a pillar forming the back-ground. It was not only the strong resemblance of the features that struck me, but the painter had so completely caught the air and attitude of the man, that had the head been entirely erased, there could have been no difficulty in recognizing the figure. There was, in fact, that charm which makes us feel, in looking on a picture, not a likeness, but the actual presence of the original—that painting of the mind, if I may so express myself, which distinguishes the artist of true genius from the servile copyist of colour and form.

I sat about an hour by his easel, while he put the finishing touches to this picture, and was particularly struck with the ease and rapidity with which his brush moved along the surface of his canvas. We then accompanied him to dinner, which was served about the same hour as other people's tiffin. Just as we were about to sit down, a gentleman was announced, who was introduced to me as Mr. Buckingham, the same who was so unmercifully cut up in the last *QUARTERLY*. He seemed a very pleasant,

clever kind of man; but had too much the air of a savant, for a plain sailor like myself, and talked too much about Egypt and the Holy Land, Belzoni, the Pyramids, the Sphinx and Shaik Ibrahim, persons and things with whom I was at that time not so intimate as to be upon speaking terms. I could say a great deal about "this learned Theban," but shall reserve it for its proper place—that is, a paper I mean to write on the Calcutta press; only this that there are some reasons I could explain to you for the venom which has been so lavishly (I don't say unjustly, for I don't understand the subject) poured out upon him by the reviewer, quite unconnected with the merits of the work; but Mr. B. has ability enough to defend himself, and I am very much mistaken indeed if he has not equal inclination.

I found Mr. C. a perfect enthusiast in his profession, and constant study of the theoretical, as well as practical parts of it, had made him a walking dictionary of anecdotes connected with it; these he told with such spirit, that, had they been in themselves dull, would have redeemed that fault. On my happening to name Wilkie, he got into raptures. "Sir," said he, "he is the cleverest man your country ever produced—he is the cleverest man that ever was in this world, by G—d; the very cleverest man that ever was created. A great Italian master, said he, studied his profession sixty years, and learned something new every day—I have studied mine nearly forty—thought I knew something about it—when a fellow starts up, who, the first time he ever takes a brush in his hand, proves he knows more of his business than us both put together—a boy whom nobody ever heard of before, comes from Scotland with a picture under his arm—lays it on the table (*"putting the action to the word with a soup-plate,"*) the very cleverest thing that ever was done on this earth, by G—d. A set of bunglers have attempted to imitate him. Any I have seen very *prossie* indeed—quite impossible to imitate him—the thing, my good sir, never can be done." In reply to a question of mine as to the state of the art in Bengal, he said there were a few amateurs, among whom he mentioned as pre-eminent, the baronet whose picture I had admired. I have since learned that this gentleman is most accomplished in every way, and besides his talents in the higher branches of the graphic art, excelled in caricature, a dangerous power no doubt, but one which he possesses good sense enough to keep within proper bounds. C. did not tell me of this qualification of the knight's, chiefly, I suspect, because he had the misfortune to be the hero of a good number of his productions in that way. He also named an officer who painted a panoramic view of the breaking up of the Marquis's army after the Ghoorkah campaign, which was exhibited last year in Glasgow, and, I believe, formerly in Edinburgh. A young gentleman connected with a mercantile house in Calcutta, to whom he was giving some instructions, and who, from his unwearied assiduity, promised to become an artist. He has since published an account of the Ghoorkah war, and that picturesque country which he had full opportunities of delineating. And lastly, "a young Scotch officer of engineers, who," said Mr C. "excels in painting as he does in every thing else he attempts. I cannot, my good sir, bring myself to believe that he is only three and twenty, for my vanity cannot be brought to own that a boy of that age can instruct me in my own profession." I afterwards saw some of this gentleman's architectural sketches, they were done in black lead, in the boat coming down between Barrackpore to Calcutta, and were curious, as well as beautiful, by shewing the perfection to which that style might be carried. His skies, particularly, had the regularly tipped appearance of an engraving, to a degree that I should have thought quite incompatible with the rapidity with which he executed them.

I asked him if there was no one who followed painting as a profession besides himself. He said there was only one, a Mr. Hume, who, though an excellent painter, had not made much of it, so far as emolument went, but had of late been employed, with a handsome salary, by the Nawab of Lucknow. "When I heard of this piece of good fortune," said Mr. C. "I thought poor H. had been unfortunate all his days, but he's in luck now." I ought to have stated that before I was three minutes in C.'s company, I found, that though his conversation was lively and agreeable,

yet he was so totally adandoned to the vice of punning, that he could hardly utter a sentence without one—a sore grievance to me, who, never being able to make one myself that I was not obliged to explain afterwards, have as great an aversion to that species of wit as Mr. Walter Shandy could have had for the very soul of him.

I afterwards saw the portrait of a lady by Mr. H. executed when he was a very young artist. She was dressed in silks, by which he established a date much anterior to the present century, and a hat equally large, but much more picturesque than the coal scuttles which the ladies wear at present. The whole reminded me strongly of the style of the Flemish portrait painters. In his later paintings he has adopted a different style, which he thinks a vast improvement, but I (not being a connoisseur) do not like it nearly so well as his old mode. Children are what he chiefly excels in.

On my expressing my admiration of a portrait of the Marquis of Hastings I had seen below stairs, and which I heard was to be engraved, Mr C. said, he had been pretty successful in that, though not quite what he could wish. He mentioned, as the best of that nobleman he had ever done, one which he had painted for the Masonic Lodge at the Mauritius I think, the story of which he told with great complacency.

He had received an order for a full length portrait of Lord Moira, to be hung up in the lodge-room, and accordingly, it was finished with masonic emblems, &c. and sent off with a note of the sum charged for it. The brethren were thunderstruck at the amount, and unanimously resolved that they would not receive the picture, so a letter to that effect was dispatched to Mr C. accordingly. As, however, there was no means of immediately returning the painting, the box in which it was contained was placed in the lodge-room until an opportunity should occur. Soon after, at a meeting of the lodge, some one suggested that it would be as well to have a peep at the production for which so exorbitant a sum was demanded, and after some consultation the box was opened. When the picture was exposed to view, they were all perfectly dumbfounded, so far did it exceed the highest notions they had formed of it; and the result of their surprise and admiration was, to keep possession of the prize at all hazards. Accordingly, by a unanimous resolution, a letter was sent off to Mr. C. enclosing a bill for the amount.

To an artist, who is, next to a poet, the vainest of all created beings, this triumph of taste over avarice must have been the most flattering compliment that possibly could have been paid, and so C. seemed to feel it. "I thought a thousand times more of it," said he, "then if they had given it at once."

We rose to depart, after spending a more rational evening than I had supposed Calcutta had in store for me, and on my return home I found an invitation awaiting me to a grand dinner for the next day. The gentleman apologized for the shortness of the notice, a useless piece of etiquette, for had the card come much sooner, it would have had to wait my own arrival.

Fine Arts.—It is a whimsical coincidence, that the two Exhibitions in the Fine Arts opened together at the Egyptian Hall, should be by gentlemen of the names of *Day* and *Martin*! Thus boots are polished and tastes refined, if not by the same individuals and means, at least by namesakes, who might bring the *Polish* from Rome and the *Blacking* from Vesuvius.

Dramatic Longevity.—Madame Lange, the sister-in-law of the famous Mozart, for whom he composed many parts, is still upon the stage of Vienna, and lately acted to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her debut.—A Mr. West, we observe, who was a dancer with Garriek 55 years ago, has a benefit at the Lyceum on Tuesday.

Accurate Artist.—Mr. W.— painted a very good winter piece, a view of the Serpentine covered with ice and skaters. No feature of the landscape was omitted, and in one-corner, specially forward, stood the board prohibiting all persons from bathing under penalty of prosecution.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1822.

CASH PAYMENTS RESUMPTION.

Mr. WESTERN rose pursuant to notice, to bring forward his motion relative to the effect which the resumption of cash payments had had in producing the present agricultural distress. The Honourable Member delivered himself in so low a tone of voice, as not to be constantly audible in the Gallery. So far as we could follow him, he spoke to the following effect:—He rose in pursuance of a notice which he had previously given, to perform a duty which was perhaps beyond his talents; but which he was yet anxious to discharge to the utmost of his power. Such was his conviction of the calamity which the resumption of cash payments had produced to the Agriculturists, and he might say to all the industrious classes in the country, that he could not help making every effort in his power to bring it before the House and before the country. He felt that, in the discharge of this duty, he would have to draw upon the patience of the House. The subject was, however, of the utmost importance, and he hoped for indulgence. He felt that he had not the wit or the eloquence to charm their ears or arrest their attention; but still he was anxious to lay before them what he conceived to be the truth;—to lay before them the result of that investigation of the subject, upon which he had been induced to enter. The object of his present motion, he avowed, was to arraign the wisdom and policy of the measure of which he complained. He admitted that the measure against which his strictures were to be directed, had the sanction not of Ministers merely, but of a great number of Members of that House. He was disposed to give every weight and authority to the votes of Parliament; but still he would not believe that any set of men were infallible. After the fullest investigation, after a long delay, after the utmost hesitation, he had come to the conclusion which had induced him to arraign this measure. He felt convinced that all the difficulty, and all the distress under which the agricultural and other industrious interests were groaning, was owing to the measure. There were, no doubt, other circumstances of a permanent nature, to which that distress and difficulty might seem to be owing; but the very consideration that there were permanent circumstances went to shew that the distress and difficulty were not owing to them. There was no doubt, for instance, that the burden of taxation in this country was such, that it must produce difficulty under any state of the currency. The defective state of the protecting duties was another source of distress to the agriculturist, and so was the poor's rate system. But though these were in their own nature bad, the present distress was not to be attributed to them; for the country had not only not suffered, but actually been in a flourishing state when they were as bad as at present. If it had done so once, and that it had could not be denied, then he could not see why it should not have gone on to flourish now, had it not been for the re-sumption of cash payments. That re-sumption had been ruinous to the agricultural, to the industrious classes of the community; and if he could not make this appear, if he could not prove, that with the exception of the fundholder and the annuitant, it had been injurious to every class of the community, then he would admit that he was in the wrong. Indeed he should not need to exempt even the fundholder; for where was he to get payment either of his principal or his interest but from the stability of the other classes of society—from the stability of the fundholder? The apparent advantage which the fundholder had at present acted as a drag upon the prosperity of every other class of the community? To it was owing not only the misery complained of in this country, but also a great part of that which at present afflicted Ireland. To understand this it was necessary only to advert to the effect which an alteration in the currency had upon prices, to consider the moral and political effect of the raising or lowering of the standard of money. When the value of money was diminished prices were raised; and though a person's income might remain nominally the same, yet it was in reality diminished. Say, for instance, that the value were to be diminished one half; and suppose a man to have an income of 1000*l.*, and be 500*l.* in debt, then he possesses only what will command that which 250*l.* would have commanded before. It is the same, too, with his creditor. He is entitled only to the same nominal sum, and that is diminished to half its extent. While the part of the 1000*l.* which belonged to the man himself could, perhaps, be augmented in consequence of the rise of prices, that which he was bound to pay to his creditor could undergo no augmentation; and thus the depreciation of the standard of the currency might be said to fall most heavily upon the annuitant and the creditor. But let the case be reversed, and it would be seen that the effect of raising the standard would be the same upon the debtor, as the lowering was upon the creditor. The tendency of the raising of the standard was, indeed, so very different from that of lowering, and affected so very different classes of the public, that the effect of the latter had been but very little felt, while the former had produced destruction to the country. The one affected only the annuitant, but the other tends to destroy the productive classes, and involves in their destruction that of the public creditor. This had lowered the value of stock, and it had increased

the amount of their debts, till, in the case of the poor man, who had perhaps borrowed a little money to enable him to build or to furnish his cottage, and who found his wages reduced from sixteen shillings to eight shillings, it was exceedingly distressing; he was reduced from his rank, and driven to beggary and want. Hence it was obvious that there was a most essential difference between the lowering and the raising of the standard of the currency—between the departing from payments in cash and the resumption of those payments. There was another point to which he would call the attention of the House, and that was the addition which the raising of the currency had made to the taxes, which was neither more nor less than giving those who lived on the taxes an advantage over those who lived by their own labour (*hear, hear.*) Considering the unparalleled burden of taxes under which this country suffered, the addition of 10 or 12 per cent. to their amount, produced by the resumption of cash payments, made the burden almost intolerable. This was a mode of increasing the revenue which was as novel as it was injurious. He had no intention of delivering to the House a regular essay on the theory of money; but still he wished to lay before them some plain and substantial propositions on its uses and functions. He was warranted by all the modern authorities in saying that money, though the medium of exchange and the measure of value, yet formed no part of the revenue of a country. Smith said expressly, that money was only an instrument, and formed no part whatever of the annual revenue. From its nature, the net value of the currency should be invariable (*hear.*) For this purpose a metallic currency had been resorted to as the least variable; but even it was not absolutely immutable. It varied from what might be termed natural causes—from the productiveness or unproductiveness of mines, and it also varied from what might be called artificial or accidental causes—as, for instance, from the finding of a substitute. If, for instance, a great part of the currency be a credit currency, then the lowering of that might lower the whole, including, of course, the part which was metallic. There were, besides, various other circumstances in the condition of a country which would affect the value of the currency, such as the increase of the population and of trade; and it would be borne in mind, that every diminution of the standard was advantageous to the industrious classes; while every increase of the standard gave the other classes of society an advantage over them. He would read two extracts, one from Locke and another from Smith, which proved the invariability of a metallic standard, and even alluded to other commodities as being less variable than it. The Honourable Member read the following extract from Mr. Locke:—“That supposing wheat a standing measure, that is, that there is constantly the same quantity of it in proportion to its vent, we shall find money to run the same variety of changes in its value as all other commodities do. Now that wheat in England does come nearest to a standing measure, is evident by comparing wheat, with other commodities, money, and the yearly income of land in Henry the 8th's time and now. For supposing that *primo* Hen. 7. N. let 100 acres of land to A. for 6*d.* per annum per acre, rack rent, and to B. another 100 acres of land of the same soil, and yearly worth, with the former for a bushel of wheat per acre, rack rent (a bushel of wheat about that time being probably sold for about 6*d.*.) it was then an equal rent. If, therefore, these leases were for years yet to come, 'tis certain that he that paid but 6*d.* per acre, would now pay 50*s.* per annum, and he that paid a bushel of wheat per acre would pay about 25*l.* per annum, which would be near about the yearly value of the land were it to be let now. The reason whereof is this, that there being ten times as much silver now in the world (the discovery of the West Indies having made the plenty) as there was then, it is nine-tenths less worth now than it was at that time; that is, it will exchange for nine-tenths less of any commodity now, which bears the same proportion to its vent as it did two hundred years since, which of all other commodities wheat is likeliest to do; for in England, and this part of the world, wheat being the constant and most general food, not altering with the fashion, not growing by chance, but as the farmers sow more or less of it, which they endeavour to proportion (as near as can be guessed) to the consumption, abstracting the overplus of the precedent year in their provision for the next; and *vice versa*, it must needs fall out, that it keeps the nearest proportion to its consumption (which is more studied and designed in this than other commodities) of any thing, if you take it for seven or twenty years together. Though perhaps the plenty or scarcity of one year, caused by the accidents of the season, may very much vary it from the immediately precedent, or following. Wheat, therefore, in this part of the world, and that grain, which is the constant general food of any other country, is the fittest measure to judge of the altered value of things in any long tract of time; and therefore wheat here, rice in Turkey, &c., is the fittest thing to reserve a rent in which is designed to be constantly the same in all future ages. But money is the best measure of the altered value of things in a few years, because its vent is the same, and its quantity alters slowly. But wheat or any other grain cannot serve instead of money, because of its bulkiness and too quick change of its quantity. For had I a bond, to pay me one hundred bushels of wheat next year, it might be a fourth part loss or gain to me: too great an inequality and uncertainty to be ventured in trade; besides the different goodness of several parcels of wheat in the same year.”

In another extract, the same distinguished authority gives—

"That if in any country they use for money any lasting material, whereof there is not any more to be got, and so cannot be increased, or being of no other use, the rest of the world does not value it, and so it is not like to be diminished; this also would be a steady standing measure of the value of other commodities.

"That in a country where they had such a standing measure, any quantity of that money (if it were but so much that every body might have some) would serve to drive any proportion of trade, whether more or less, there being counters enough to reckon by, and the value of the pledges being still sufficient, as constantly increasing with the plenty of the commodity."

He should endeavour to shew before he sat down, that the extent of the depreciation in the currency during the period of restriction of a metallic issue, was the great cause of the rise of price in corn. It led to an advance in the value of all commodities, but particularly wheat. Indeed he thought he could prove from facts, that the whole of the increase of price in corn was the consequence solely of the altered value of the currency. He was not one of those who considered the effects that the country felt in all its great branches of wealth during the restriction as a fictitious prosperity. Far from it; he considered that the country during that period advanced in substantial wealth, in progressive prosperity with a stimulus to its population in a ratio unprecedented in any previous part of our history. Notwithstanding the severe pressure of the war affecting the public industry in such a variety of modes: the agriculture, the commerce, and the manufactures of the country made more rapid strides towards public prosperity, than within any correspondent previous period. Was he to be told that; to an increase in the power, the wealth, the individual comfort, the public happiness were not to be estimated as proofs of national prosperity merely because a great metallic currency was not in circulation? The effects that followed the increased amount of currency were its natural consequences—it was attended, as every man must have expected, with a rise in prices. It led precisely to the same results as the opening of the American mines, in the diminution of the value of silver, and the consequent increase of the quantity of metallic money throughout the nations of the world? But though the imitations of America did produce depreciation of value in the silver currency, did not that event also give an increased stimulus to the industry of all the nations of the world? He would shew how the effect of that stimulus was estimated, by no less an authority than Sir Francis Bacon. That great man published the work at the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in answer to a libel published at that period.

"There was never the like number of fair and stately houses as have been built and set up from the ground since her Majesty's reign; inasmuch that there have been reckoned in one shire, that is not great, to the number of thirty-three, which have been all new built within that time, and whereof the meanest was never built for two thousand pounds.

"There were never the like pleasures of goodly gardens and orchards, walks, pools, and parks, as do adorn almost every mansion-house.

"There was never the like number of beautiful and costly tombs and monuments which are erected in sundry churches in honourable memory of the dead.

"There was never the like quantity of plate, jewels, sumptuous moveables and stuff, as is now within the realm.

"There was never the like quantity of waste and unprofitable ground, inned, reclaimed, and improved.

"There was never the like husbanding of all sorts of grounds by fencing, manuring and all kinds of good husbandry.

"The towns were never better built nor peopled; nor the principal fairs and markets ever better customed or frequented.

"The commodities and ease of rivers cut by hand, and brought into a new channel; of piers that have been built; of waters that have been forced and brought against the ground were never so many.

"There was never so many excellent artificers, not so many new handicrafts used and exercised; nor new commodities made within the realm, sugar, paper, glass, copper, divers silks, and the like.

"There was never such complete and honourable provision of horse, armour, weapons, ordinance of the war.

"The fifth blessing had been the great population and multitude of families increased within her Majesty's days; for which point I refer myself to the proclamations of restraint of building in London, the inhibition of inmates of sundry cities, the restraint of cottages by Act of Parliament, and sundry other tokens of record of the surcharge of people."

This description of Sir F. Bacon, he (Mr. Western) felt to be an exact picture of the actual effects experienced in this country during the restriction on the Bank, during the period when what was called a fictitious currency gave a similar energy to the powers of this country. It was not competent to him to specify the precise proportion in which the increased currency contributed to that effect, but that it possessed a powerful and pre-eminent influence in producing it, he had no doubt. The amount of depreciation could not be measured by the difference existing between paper and the price of gold. The Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Peel), the introducer of the Bill for the restoration of Cash Payments, had himself admitted that the depreciation was to be estimated, not alone by difference between paper and gold, but in combination with the extent of the credit currency, which was co-existent. Having made these general observations, he should endeavour to shew that the advance in the price of corn was the effect of the depreciation in the manner described. He must go back a long way to prove what the price of corn was, taking the averages for successive periods, during a space of years from 1695 downwards. For the first 50 years of that period, the average price of the first four years was 44s. 9d.; in the last four years 38s. In the year 1793, the average price of corn was 44s., differing only in the pence from the average price in the first four years of the period commencing nearly a hundred years before. The average price of the ten years ending in 1813, was 99s. The average price since that period was 52s. That the effect of war had little to do with the increase of the price, he should now endeavour to shew. In the war that commenced in 1756, the average price of corn for the first five years was 11. 14s. In the year 1763 that terminated that war, the price of the quarter was 11. 17s. In the year after, the first year of peace, the price was 21. 1s.; in the year 1765 it was 21. 8s.; and on an average of five years after the termination of the war in 1763, the price was 21. 5s. In the next war in which this country was engaged with America, the average price of the five years before the war was 21. 11s., while the average price of the whole war was 21. 6s. In the year succeeding the termination of the war the price of the quarter of corn was 21. 10s., and the average price of the succeeding years was 21. 8s. 2d. These were very strong facts to prove that war did not increase the price of corn, whether it was that the drains of gold which war created, counteracted the effect in producing a high price for that article, which would otherwise exist, whatever was the cause, the result of the war to which he alluded proved that the price during the war was less than in the year antecedent to its commencement, and in the year succeeding its termination. He drew an argument in confirmation of this argument from another fact. That fact was founded on a return of the quantity of British wheat, &c. sold in the London markets for the last ten years, from 1812 to 1821. The Return, under the head of Wheat, he would now read.—

"In 1812, 396,921 quarters, 125s.; 1813, 333,344, 108s.; 1814, 333,096, 73s.; 1815, 317,191, 64s.; 1816, 398,734, 75s.; 1817, 291,219, 94s.; 1818, 204,180, 84s.; 1819, 253,671, 71s.; 1820, 333,300, 67s. 1821, 365,535, 50s."

Here, then, it was undeniably proved that in the same market, with an increasing demand, one would suppose, from an increased population, there was a less quantity of wheat sold in the same market in 1821, at 50s. a quarter, than in 1812, at 125s. a quarter. He would be glad to hear to what other cause such a fact could be attributed, other than the alteration in the currency. He knew that a considerable stress was laid on what Honourable Gentlemen were pleased to call a redundant production. He did not admit any weight to that assumption. There was no evidence of the existence of any such redundancy. It was to be attributed solely to the scarcity made in the currency, for it was undeniable that a corresponding fall had, from the same causes, taken place in almost every other commodity as well as corn. He had shewn what the effect of the restriction for twenty-three years had produced. He had now the disheartening duty to review the effects of the repeal of that restriction. When the Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Peel) introduced that measure, he adverted to the precedents established in the reigns of Edward I. of Elizabeth, and of William III. What analogy, he would ask, existed between those reigns and the present state of British society, in what relation could the circumstances of the kingdom at those epochs and at the present period be compared? With the time of Edward the First there could be no line of comparison. A great proportion of the money then in circulation was both debased and counterfeit. To relieve the country from that evil the ancient standard was restored. In the reign of Edward the Sixth an endeavour was made to relieve the country from the effects of that violent operation which was made in the preceding reign on the standard of the coin of the realm in order to enable King Henry the Eighth to pay his debts by cheating, as to an extent it was, his creditors. That way the interpretation given to that operation by the authors who treated of that period, it was the opinion of Mr. Harris, confirmed subsequently by Mr. Lowndes, who added that the cause of the operation was well understood by the people, who, though they suffered under the confusion and embarrassment which such an operation must have produced, yet still

contrived to mitigate the mischievous consequences by some settled and understood agreement amongst themselves as to the value of that debased coinage. But on endeavouring to relieve the country even from the effects of that violent operation, which had only existed for five or six years, the Ministers of that period never dreamt of reverting *per saltum* to the ancient standard. They had too high a reverence for existing contracts; they calculated what must have been the effect of a depreciation, even for five or six years, and they wisely and justly reverted not to the ancient standard, as it existed in the reign of Edward the first, viz., the pound weight of silver into 40 shillings, but out of regard to the contracts that existed, established the standard at 60 shillings for the pound of silver. They knew that it was impracticable to retrace their steps to the oldest standard. In the reigns of Elizabeth and William the Third the only operation was to correct a vitiated currency but there was no alteration in the standard. But they had the authority of Mr. Lowndes for the fact, though it was a vitiated currency, it still continued to be received in payment of Taxes. But it was perfectly puerile to compare the state of England centuries ago, or even at the period of the revolution, with the condition of the country now, oppressed with a national debt of 800,000,000l. contracted in a depreciated currency, and now under the operation of the late Act, to be paid at the expense of the blood and industry of the country. It was true, that without that increase in the currency, this country could never have passed with success through the struggle of the war. Without that currency, she could never have raised those sums by which we were enabled to make the requisite exertions; but notwithstanding that, it was impossible that with diminished means we should now repay in a standard double in value to that under which that debt was created. If Ministers, with what was daily occurring in the country, with all the destructive effects before them of that which they undertook in ignorance, but of whose mischiefs they must now be sensible, were not disposed to retrace their steps, he should deem them highly culpable; but if, through a feeling of pride, they were determined to persevere in such a destructive course, then he should pronounce them as traitors to the dearest interests of the country. Had they duly considered the question, they must and ought to have been aware of the consequence of diminishing the currency after a system persevered in for 23 years; with an increase in all the branches of public industry; and with contracts existing founded on that system; and last of all an unprecedented public debt. He would read an extract from Mr. Hume, well known to Members of that House, but which was so singularly clear on the particular effects in progress, that he hoped he should be excused in reading it:—

"For the exigencies and uses of money not lessening with its quantity, and it being in the same proportion to be employed and distributed, still in all the parts of its circulation, so much as its quantity is lessened so much must the state of every one that has a right to this money be the less, whether he be landholder for his goods, or labourer for his hire, or merchant for his brokerage. Though the landholder usually finds it first, because money failing and falling short people have not so much money as formerly to lay out, and so less money is brought to market, by which the price of things must necessarily fall. The labourer feels it next; for when the landowner's rent falls, he must either hate the labourer's wages, or not employ, or not pay him, which makes him feel the want of money. The merchant feels it last; for, though he sell less, and at a lower rate, he buys also our native commodities, which he exports at lower rate too; and will be sure to leave our native commodities unbought, upon the hands of the farmer or manufacturer, rather than export them to a market which will not afford him a return with profit."

Mr. Locke bore out the same opinion, particularly as it affected the condition of the labourer, who by such a course was likely to be driven into a state that would deluge the country. What would have been the opinions of these great authorities, if they had viewed that question under the overwhelming pressure of the taxation of this day (*hear, hear*)? It was not by payments in money that that pressure could be fairly estimated. We were now paying a taxation amounting to 60,000,000l. per annum. It was not by pounds, shillings, and pence, that any man could form a just estimate of the pressure of such an amount of taxation. It must be estimated by the price of commodities, on the sale of which the power of paying it depended (*hear, hear*). In that view he should make a conversion of these sixty millions of taxes into the amount paid according to the value of commodities or of labour, and from thence he should establish the proof, that in 1821, to meet 60,000,000l. taxation, we were paying nearly double in the article of corn that we were paying in 1813, to meet a taxation of 74,674,798l. He begged pardon while he read what appeared a clear statement, in confirmation of this argument, taken from official documents.

"That it appears from the Financial Volume of 1813, that the tax levied in that year, in the United Kingdom, amounted to 74,674,798l. and that the price of wheat being that year 108s. 9d. 13,733,290 quarters were sufficient for the payment thereof.

"That upon the supposition of the price of wheat being 81s. 4d. which was the average of the period from 1798 to 1816, that 18,362,625 quarters of wheat did suffice to pay that amount of taxes.

"That from the Financial Volume of 1821, it appears that the taxes amounted to 60,671,825l.; that the price of wheat was 55s. 4d.; and that to discharge the payment of these taxes, it requires 21,863,720 quarters of wheat, or nearly one-half more than in 1813; the taxes thus being 74,674,798l.

"That the price of wheat of the present year is 45s., at which price 26,965,255 quarters are required to pay the present amount of taxes, or very nearly double the number of quarters which were sufficient to pay 74,674,798l., the amount of taxes in 1813.

"That in the year 1813, the price of gold being 110s. per ounce, 13,577,236 ounces were sufficient to discharge the taxes of the year, being as above stated, 74,674,798l.

"That in the present year the price of gold being 77s. 6d.; 15,657,245 ounces are necessary to discharge taxes to the amount of 60,671,825l.

"That in the year 1813, the price of labour being 16s. per week, the labour of 5,000,000 of persons in 18 weeks 4 days, did then suffice to pay the taxes of that year, being as above stated, 74,674,798l.

"That the price of labour being now 9s. per week, it requires the labour of 26 weeks and six days to accomplish the payment of the present amount of taxes, viz. 60,671,825l. or nearly one half more than was sufficient in 1813.

"That at 8s. per week, it requires 30 weeks and two days, or nearly double the labour requisite in 1813.

"That upon the supposition that all commodities have fallen 40 per cent. only within the last seven years, taxes require an increased quantity in that ratio for their discharge; so that 60,671,825l. require as many commodities as would have sufficed seven years ago to discharge 84,940,555l.

"That in 1813, the taxes and county assessments, and poor rates, together amounted to 83,063,712l., which were paid by 15,276,096 quarters of wheat, or by 15,102,504 ounces of gold.

"That in 1821 the taxes and county assessments and rates together amounted to 60,171,825l., which require 24,926,784 quarters of wheat, or 17,850,793 ounces of gold; being half the quantity more in wheat, and 2,748,289 ounces more of gold in 1821 than in 1813; in 1822 the quantity of wheat required would be more than double.

"That the amount of money expended for relief of the poor in the year 1813, was 6,294,584l., being equivalent to 1,157,625 quarters of Wheat at the average price of that year, viz. 108s. 9d., and to 1,171,035 ounces of gold at 110s. Whereas in 1821, estimating the amount of money expended for relief of the poor, at 7,000,000l., being 829,594l. below the amount expended in 1819, its equivalent in Wheat, at the average of 1821, viz. 55s. 4d., will be 2,500,000 quarters, and in gold at 77s. 6d. 1,871,090 ounces."

The result was, that burdens were accumulated to that great extent on the industry of the people, and they were taxed to 90 millions instead of 60 millions, the nominal amount. He then read a comparative statement of the declared and official value of certain commodities, corroborative of his former assertions; but the very indistinct tone in which the Honourable Member spoke, and the omission of lighting the candles of the House, which left us in total darkness about half an hour, prevented us from entering into the details. The conclusion was, that the public interests could sustain no injury, but must be essentially benefited by agreeing to the motion which he had to propose. It was necessary to remove the extraordinary and unexampled pressure on the agricultural interests. He contended that the real and unfeigned cause of distress in Ireland was the want of employment, and observed, that the importance of the duty which we had to perform prevented him from shrinking from the task. He begged the House to consider that they were now placed in a situation without precedent to guide their steps, and which was one of peculiar difficulty, requiring their impartial and undivided attention. He felt that he did his duty in calling the attention of the House to this important question. The country now began to see the full extent of the evil consequences of the measure for the resumption of cash payments, as passed in 1819; but he admitted, that at the time, the effects of that Bill could not be generally foreseen. The House did not at that time fully investigate the consequences of taking up the ancient standard of value from which they had departed for so long a period.—They only considered the capacity of the Bank to fulfil its engagements (*hear, hear, hear*). They had departed from that standard for upwards of twenty-two years, while their national debt increased to upwards of 800,000,000l. and under such circumstances he thought the reference to the ancient standard absolutely impossible, and could never be maintained. If they wished the evils under which the country was labouring to be cheerfully borne, if they wished the fundholder to be securely paid his interest, if they wished the national burdens to be lightened, how could those wishes be accomplished? Only by adopting such measures as would give to the produce of industry of every description the same nominal value as that which it enjoyed during the period of the suspension of Cash Payments.—The Honourable Gentleman concluded by moving

that a Committee be appointed to consider the effect produced by the Act of the 59 Geo. 3. c. 45, on the agriculture, manufactures and commerce of the United Empire, and on the general condition of the different classes of society, and to report thereon to the House (*hear, hear, hear*).

Mr. HUSKISSON observed, that the object which the Honourable Member proposed being neither more nor less than to reverse the present standard of value, and thereby to let loose all the contracts that had been entered into between man and man during its existence, and the course which the Honourable Member recommended being one that menaced the most fearful consequences, he was persuaded that, on a subject of such magnitude, and involving such alarming results, the House would be induced to give a patient hearing, even to a person so little entitled to address them as himself (*hear, hear, hear*). He had listened with all the attention which it was in his power to bestow to the speech of the Honourable Gentleman—a speech which, he must fairly and candidly say filled him in some respect with astonishment, and in others with deep regret. He was astonished at some of the Honourable Gentleman's propositions, statements, and doctrines. He was filled with deep regret to see an Hon. Member who, he was sure, was as incapable as any man in the world of acting against the principles of justice and right, recommending measures utterly subversive of public faith, and of every maxim of justice. He was far from imputing to the Hon. Member any intention of doing so; but, in fact, the Honourable Gentleman had utterly lost sight of every principle by which all Legislatures ought to be governed on subjects like the present. He (*Mr. Huskisson*) was one of those who sat in that House in the year 1797, when the suspension of cash payments first took place. He had also had the honour of a seat in Parliament during the whole of the long period which had since elapsed; and he trusted he had not been an inattentive observer of the proceedings of Parliament as to the point in question. But, really, were he to judge only from what he had heard the Honourable Member for Essex state that night, he should infer that that Honourable Gentleman was totally unacquainted with the true character of the proceedings to which he had alluded. He should in that case have thought that the Honourable Gentleman considered that character to be—that the liability of the Bank of England to pay their notes in cash having been for the first time suspended in 1797, a difference had grown up under that suspension between the real and the nominal value of coin and notes—a difference that had not only been acknowledged by the Legislature but acted on by the public; that not only all contracts then made had been adjusted, and compensations made with reference to that difference, but that all subsequent contracts had been made with reference to that acknowledged difference—a difference which could be measured and estimated from time to time. The statements and reasonings of the Honourable Gentleman, would have warranted him (*Mr. Huskisson*), if he did not know the fact, in inferring that instead, at the period when the depreciation of the currency was the greatest, of a measure having been proposed to Parliament and adopted, for preventing the adjustment of any such difference, and for providing that thenceforward all demands should be satisfied in the nominal currency; and also imposing a penalty on any man who should give more for a guinea than its value in paper and silver, such a proposition had been utterly scorned and scouted. He should have thought that the Hon. Member for Essex, and the other Hon. Gentlemen who were connected with the landed interest, would have been among the first to deprecate any measure which must so materially affect dowry and life rents on the lives of younger children. He should have thought further, that they would also have equally felt it their public duty, to consider whether Parliament could adopt the course recommended by the Honourable Member for Essex consistently with the observance of good faith to the public creditor. He would ask whether our situation was not precisely the reverse of that on which alone the Honourable Gentleman's proposition could be supported? He would ask if debts contracted prior to 1797 were compensated after that period to the creditor in reference to the depreciation of the currency? He would ask if any pecuniary contract after the year 1797 was made with any such reference? He should ask whether, on the contrary, the law did not step in and proscribe any such reference, either as to a private or as to the public creditor? Did not the law of that period prohibit any adjustment of contracts already entered into with reference to the difference in the value of the currency; and did it not go still further, and prohibit any future contract to be entered into with reference to any such difference? That being the case, he felt it impossible, when entering on such a grave and important consideration as the present, to divest himself of what he was persuaded a British House of Commons would always deem the first consideration, a strict attention to justice, good faith, national honour, and the rule of right. But would the Honourable Member for Essex contend that there ought to be two rules of right and justice in pecuniary transactions—one rule for the creditor and the other for the debtor—one rule to determine the way in which the debtor should be at liberty to make a tender to the creditor, the other to give a power to the creditor to demand more than what on the faith of the law the debtor had lent to him? The Honourable Member had alluded a little to an incumber-

ed estate. That he (*Mr. Huskisson*) might more clearly illustrate his principles, he would put this case. He would suppose that the Hon. Member, or any other possessor of a landed estate, had, prior to the year 1792, incumbered it with a mortgage which was yet remaining. He would suppose that subsequently to 1797, and he would take the year of the greatest depreciation, 1811, the same estate had been encumbered with a further mortgage, which was also remaining. He would ask the Hon. Gentleman, and he would ask him confidently, knowing his love of justice, whether he would have felt at liberty during the period of depreciation, to go to the mortgage and tender payment of the amount of the mortgage in the depreciated currency? To which proposition the creditor would have answered, that when he lent his money he had looked at all the circumstances affecting the situation of debtor and creditor in this country; that he had looked at the fact, that for three centuries the standard of the country had been invariable and immutable; that he had looked at all the statutes during that period, and found that the standard had not been altered; to all which the Honourable Gentleman might have answered that there was a law, the authority of which prevented the creditor from referring to any difference in the value of the standard; that he would give no more than the nominal amount of the mortgage; that whether the rent of his estate had been doubled or trebled was of no consequence. When the Honourable Gentleman had said that to the mortgagee prior to 1797, would he feel himself justified in turning round to the mortgagee of 1811, and saying to him, "You lent me your money in a currency which you knew at the time was depreciated; of course you do not expect that I should pay you in a currency of increased value." Was the unfortunate creditor to plead in vain that they had both been aware that the difference of value was only temporary in its character? Was the Honourable Gentleman to persist in declaring, that as the standard of currency was depreciated 40 per cent. when the mortgage was concluded, he should consider himself justified in deducting that from the payment? He was sure that when the Honourable Gentleman reflected on his own proposition, he would never maintain so unjust a principle as that a man might go to a creditor of one period and require the compensation calculated on a difference in the value of the currency, and at the same time refuse that compensation to another creditor. He was quite sure that the Honourable Gentleman had no such meaning; and yet that was distinctly the character of his proposition. If that was the reasoning applicable to private creditors, let the House consider how it would apply to other classes. Was it possible the Honourable Member could look at the amount of the various loans during the war, and endeavour to measure the difference between their nominal and their real value, with a view to make an abatement in the interest due to the public creditor, with whom a loan had been contracted under circumstances of a depreciated currency; and yet be so unjust as not to compensate the old public creditor for the deficiency which he had experienced in consequence of the depreciation? And when the Honourable Member talked of subjecting the public and the private creditor to this process of adjustment, he (*Mr. Huskisson*) would ask him whether he really and seriously believed such an adjustment practicable? Was it possible to distinguish the public creditor of one loan from the public creditor of another? Was it possible to distinguish the circumstances under which the various loans had been advanced? To do that, every single transaction must be traced; not only those which had occurred prior to 1797, but those which had occurred since. That inquiry must go not only into public but two private transactions. Yet those transactions had been divided, subdivided, and reunited, until it had become utterly impossible to recognize their original features. And even if it were not so, how could the Hon. Gentleman ascertain what were the previous circumstances of any persons who had vested money either in the funds or in private securities? It might be that a mortgagee, whose mortgage had been paid off in consequence of the temptation held out by the twofold increase in the rents, had so vested his money. Was he not to be entitled, according to the Honourable Gentleman, to go back with his claim of justice to the person by whom he had been so paid? In every view of the subject, it was evident that it would be impossible to trace such transactions to their source. The Honourable Gentleman's principle would not only apply to all contracts still existing, but it would also apply to all contracts which had terminated during the whole period of the suspension of Cash Payments. This was surely enough to show the utility of the proposition. He was persuaded that the House must feel that he had said enough to show, that if they were to proceed on that difficult and delicate subject, on a principle of equity and fairness, it would be absolutely impossible to avoid involving the country and themselves in inextricable confusion, and in consequences fatal to property, and as such, equally fatal to the public prosperity and power. If he were to follow the Honourable Gentleman through the whole of his elaborate statement, he felt that he should only be wasting the time of the House, and exhausting his own strength, without advancing the discussion on those points in which its real merits consisted. But if he was surprised at the practical doctrines which the Honourable Member had advanced, he should have been much more surprised at his theories, had he not observed, that when a Member of Parliament brings forward any such theories, he generally launched very widely into the sea of

speculation. Among the extraordinary theories in which the Honourable Gentleman had indulged, a great part of his speech was taken up in an elaborate attempt to prove that the prosperity of the country might always be ascertained by the extreme dearthness of the necessary articles of life. The Honourable Gentleman had cited twenty instances in which the price of corn and of all the other articles of life, bordered on the famine price, but which, he maintained, were the true criterions of the power and the greatness of the country. The Honourable Member had instanced the year 1813 as a favourable year, in which corn was exceedingly dear; and, consequently, the country was very prosperous, as a smaller portion of the corn paid the taxes. He (Mr. Huskisson) had expected from that statement that the country was in a very happy state; but finding that that was not the case, he had been induced to look at other periods, and would state one or two instances of the result. The year 1815, which was a most unfortunate year, a year during which the manufacturing districts were afflicted with a distress tending to rebellion and famine, ought to have been most prosperous, according to the Honourable Gentleman's data; for, in those halcyon days of our prosperity and greatness, wheat was at the moderate price of 125s. a quarter, and the whole amount of the taxation could be paid with the value of eleven millions of quarters of wheat. Compare that with the present year, when no such distress existed, and yet when corn was not half the actual charge in amount of corn as in 1812; although the nominal charge was seventy millions instead of fifty. Three years after, in 1815, the taxes were 79,948,000l.; the country was almost ruined, but wheat had fallen to 64s. a quarter, and the taxes might have been paid with twenty-five millions of quarters of wheat. In 1817, which the Honourable Member called the last year of our prosperity, the country was again plunged into distress. Again the manufacturing distress was very considerable. Taxes, however, had fallen from seventy-nine to fifty-five millions. The price of wheat had risen to 94s. a quarter. Eleven millions of quarters, instead of twenty-five millions, would then have been sufficient to pay all our taxes. It appeared therefore, by a reference to these disastrous years, that the novel maxim of political economy of the Honourable Gentleman, that in proportion to the dearthness of corn was the prosperity of the country, was not borne out by the fact. In direct opposition to the Honourable Gentleman's principles he would assert, that the power and the resources of the country were most flourishing when the prices of all the articles of life were moderate and reasonable, and the people could therefore obtain the means of comfortable enjoyment. The tendency of the Hon. Gentleman's argument was to shew that it was the duty of Parliament by artificial means to raise, gradually but certainly, the prices of the articles of life, by a constant diminution in the value of money. He would tell the Honourable Gentleman, that such a proceeding would be utterly inconsistent with all those engagements of which property was the object. He (Mr. Huskisson) considered the standard of value to be a guarantee on the part of the State to all the subjects of the state that all their pecuniary engagements should be fixed and invariable. That was the only security for property. That was the only course consistent with good faith and a sense of justice. How could that course be pursued if the standard were to be subjected to artificial variations, and if such fanciful arrangements as might aid the interests of certain classes were to be substituted for a fixed and invariable rule? The Hon. Gent. was a member of that House, if not during the whole, at least during the greater part of the discussions on the currency. He believed that the Honourable Gentleman supported all the measures for securing the speedy resumption of cash payments. Since that period, however, the Honourable Gentleman might have received fresh light. Doctrines, however, which the Honourable Gentleman had broached were by no means new. The principle, that the value of money should be progressively diminished, had been advocated by Law and by Lowndes, but had not received the sanction of public approbation. It was, in fact, the doctrine of a debtor, and especially of a debtor who was anxious to become so in a larger degree. Law's scheme was similar to that of the Hon. Member for Essex, only that the latter was more limited in its nature. (The Hon. Member here read an extract from the Preface to a French Minister of State's account of Law's scheme, in order to show the opinion entertained of its fallacy.) As far as he (Mr. Huskisson) had been able to collect the Honourable Gentleman's opinion, it was, that the best standard of currency was not gold or silver, but corn. He had no particular objection to corn as a standard. The only question was as to the relative advantages of such a standard, and of the standard which had been hitherto adopted in all civilized countries. He asked the House if it were possible to conceive any one article on which the standard was so fluctuating and varying from year to year as the corn standard. But the Hon. Gentleman said he would make it the standard, because he found a period of one 50 years, in which the price was so much; of another 50 years, in which the price was so much; of a third 50 years, in which the price was so much, &c. But would the Honourable Gentlemen tell them what was the fluctuation of price from year to year? In Ireland the article of general consumption was not corn but potatoes; would the Honourable Gentleman make potatoes the standard? if so, the standard for the present year would certainly have been very safe. The errors of the Honourable Gentleman were too frequent to be refuted minutely. He could not but make a few observations, however, as to some points

of his speech. The Honourable Gentleman had said, that in 1812, the consumption price of corn was higher than in the present year. The Honourable Gentleman would have it believed, that in 1821, with a greatly increased population in the metropolis, and the increased ease of all the classes which composed the population, that yet the consumption of Corn had diminished instead of having increased. The Honourable Gentleman, passed over all other years, stated that the quantity of corn bought in the London market was less than the quantity purchased in 1812. The fact, however, was, that in 1812 all the corn that could be drawn from other countries was imported principally to London, the great emporium; the millers and consumers from the country resorted to the London market, and purchased their corn, but the case was now reversed, the consumers in the country having a supply greater than their wants, did not of course resort to the London market. If he (Mr. Huskisson) understood the speech of the Honourable Gentleman, his remedy was this, either to adjust all contracts prior to 1797, and since, with reference to the altered value of money, or to take, in the next place, an averaged scale of depreciation. He had already shown, that to adopt the first would be impossible; and to follow the second course would be not less improbable; or if it were practicable, would be unjust. The Honourable Gentleman had not fairly dealt with many points of the case, he had put a case of an individual having originally a property of 1,000l. incumbered with a charge of 500l.; he argued, that in consequence of the altered state of the currency, the proprietor, with a decreased income, and a permanent incumbrance, must necessarily be ruined; taking the point for granted, yet the Honourable Gentleman was clearly in error, because he assumed it, as a general principle, applicable to the present state of the landed interest; but he (Mr. Huskisson) had no hesitation in saying, that all Estates which were unincumbered received a compensation for the loss sustained by the altered value of money. What was the situation of mortgages before the alteration of the currency? He received no compensation for the loss he sustained in consequence of the depreciated state of the currency—in that depreciated currency he received his interest money, and it was not until now that the case operated inversely. During that time the mortgaged man remained contented; he was obliged, however, to pay an equal share of the public burthens with the proprietors of the land, with taxes increased in consequence of the depreciation of money. Those difficulties were the consequence of fluctuating events, to which this and all other countries were liable. It was said that the landed interest only suffered; it was not so, it could not be so, unless that happened which he held to be impossible, namely, that the rents of lands should go on falling below what they were in 1797. He was aware that, on this subject, he spoke to Gentlemen largely concerned in the landed interest;—but even before these he would contend that, inasmuch as the charges were paid by the tenant before the rent was paid, there was no difference in the situation of the landed proprietor and the proprietor of the stock. He did not tffect to speak prophetically; but of this he was sure, that it was impossible that lands could go on falling beyond what they were in 1797. He maintained that the landed interest, in the even—of a resumption of Cash Payments, would have compensation against its effects; and, indeed, on the resumption of Cash Payments, the landed interest would have a comparative advantage over unincumbered men. There was a class connected with the landed interest whose situation was more likely to be seriously affected by the alteration of the currency—he meant the tenantry. The alteration in the value of money left the tenants, who had formerly expended large sums on the land, exposed to great loss, if not to the destruction of their property; but that was one of the misfortunes which grew out of the state of the country, so long without any settled standard of value. Into that scene of uncertainty and confusion the proposition of the Honourable Gentleman would again launch the country, and expose it to all the evils of gambling and hazardous pursuits. The Hon. Gentleman was not to suppose that the distress of the country was to be solely ascribed to the late measure respecting the country; he might recollect that in 1811, and at other periods, that the country was reduced to a state of the utmost distress and ruin, in consequence of excessive speculation. Another part of the speech of the Honourable Gentleman referred to what had occurred in the early part of the Session, and to a position laid down by him and by others, that the depreciation of the currency was to be measured by the difference between the market and the mint price of gold. He had always maintained that the value of money was regulated by and depended upon the economical use of it, by the state of the public credit, and by the high state of confidence reposed in the country. During the last 20 years of the depreciated currency did the House ever hear any Member attempt to adjust the standard of the currency with reference to the diminished value of money—no such thing; but surely if the principle were to be applied in one case they ought in another. The plan of the Honourable Gentleman to fix the value of money with reference to the price of corn, was exposed in every point of view to objections: According to the Honourable Gentleman, if in ten years hence, corn rose to 80s. the House would be again called upon to change the standard. As often as the price of corn varied, so, according to the plan of the Honourable Gentleman, should vary the standard of the currency. The Honourable Gentleman seemed to think, that the present state of the country was altogether unparalleled with respect

to the currency; but on reference to the state of the country, not so remotely as the time of Elizabeth, but so recently as the time of William, he would find a remarkable resemblance between the state of England then, caused by an alteration of the currency, and its present state. The situation in which England was placed at that period might be collected from the correspondence of William, Duke of Shrewsbury, Minister of William, lately published. The difficulties of that day, like the difficulties of the present, proceeded from the same cause—a reform in the state of the currency. The able introduction of Archdeacon Cox showed in a clear light the pressure under which the country at that period laboured. Here the Right Honourable Gentleman read extracts from the correspondence of the Duke of Shrewsbury and King William, in 1696, then with his army in Flanders. In his letter of 15th of May 1796, the Duke of Shrewsbury stated, that he had consulted with the Lords Justices, that they had discoursed with the most eminent goldsmiths and bankers, and that they were not able to propose any remedy, save the putting into circulation the clipped coin. The remedy proposed at that day was precisely the same as the remedy now proposed by the Honourable Gentleman. The answer of the King, dated the 29th July, stated, that he was quite overcome, he knew not what nor where he was; he saw no resource to prevent the army from mutiny and total desertion. The King went on to state his wish to anticipate several taxes, and to call a Parliament to enable him so to do. On the 28th of July the Duke wrote to the King, stating that the unanimous opinion of the Lords Justices was, that if a Parliament were called, it would only produce Petitions from one part of the country on the subject of the currency. The last letter he would quote was, the answer of King William, in which he expressed his hope that God would release the country from its embarrassments, for he could not suppose that the Almighty would suffer a nation to perish, by whose almost miraculous interference it had been so often saved. These were the genuine sentiments (not intended for the public eye) expressed by William to his Minister. Great indeed, were the difficulties under which the country then laboured. William was then contending for the liberties of England—for the principles of the Revolution, and, as far as his personal interests were concerned, he was contending for the Throne of this country. On the 20th of October William, having returned to England, met his Parliament; he recognised what had been done respecting the improvement of the currency. On that very day, contrary to the usual practice of Parliament, Mr. Montague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in order to do away all doubts upon the subject, proposed to the House a Resolution, that the House would not alter the standard of silver or gold in fineness, weight, or denomination. That resolution was adopted and acted upon; but notwithstanding the temporary embarrassments which depressed her, the efforts of the country enabled her to prosecute the war and to overcome all difficulties. Nothing, he contended, could be more unwise in a country than to depreciate its currency; it was the last mark of a nation's weakness and degradation. The Hon. Gentleman, it was true, asked only for a Committee; but it should be recollected with what views he asked for that Committee. If the views of the Honourable Gentleman were carried into effect, what would be the result? If the House were to adopt his measure, did not the Honourable Member see that the result of the measure would be to banish the gold coin of the country and to produce a paper currency, that there would be an immediate demand upon the Bank for all the treasure it possessed, and, in a word, to get rid of a law which had for its object a return to the fixed standard of value; that salutary measure was attended with difficulties and embarrassments, but its great and salutary effects would be felt long after the temporary difficulties attending it should cease. The House would not do its duty in a matter of such great delicacy, if it confined itself to the giving of a mere negative. It was their duty to shew, having adopted a standard calculated to give certainty to the dealings of the country, that they would not depart from it for the convenience of particular individuals (*hear*). Looking to the great precedent of 1696—looking also to the necessities of the present case and the great evils to which the adoption of the motion of the Hon. Gentleman would lead, he thought the House could not act more wisely than to re-affirm the Resolution of 1696 (*hear, hear*). He was not one of those who were in the habit of propounding resolutions to affirm general principles of right or justice, but he felt most strongly that when those principles were called in question, it was a duty to vindicate and assert them. Instead, therefore, of proposing a simple negative, he should propose, as an Amendment, this Resolution:—That this House will not alter the standard of gold or silver in fineness, weight, or denomination (*hear, hear*)."

The question being put—that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the motion.

Lord A. HAMILTON said, the Right Honourable Gentleman had, with great ingenuity, evaded the real question, which was, whether, seeing that the measure that had been taken was accompanied with the distress and ruin of a great portion of the community, they should look on without inquiring as to the possibility of removing it. It was not a necessary consequence of agreeing to the motion that they should repeal the Act of 1819, or indeed that they should take any measures affecting it. Certainly he would consent to do neither, without an inquiry, and if his Honourable Friend (Mr. Western) had proposed any mo-

tion absolutely for a repeal of that Bill, he should have given it his negative. All the arguments which had been adduced by the Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Huskisson), might be turned against him. The Right Honourable Gentleman had asked why they would open up all contracts; whether they would allow the creditor to suffer, and the debtor to gain? What they said was, that the debtor was suffering, and the creditor was gaining, and the injustice which the Right Honourable Gentleman had attributed to a possible state of things, was the accompaniment of their present condition (*hear, hear, hear*). When the Right Hon. Gentleman asked whether they would do injustice to the holder of the National Debt, he would ask should they do injustice to the payer of the National Debt (*hear*)? Was there no suffering on his part (*hear*)? When the Right Honourable Gentleman denied the existence of suffering, he (Lord A. H.) referred to the Report said to have been written by himself, in which it was said that the tenants were paying their rent out of their capital (*hear*). They had done, were doing, and must do, great mischief; his only wish was to inquire how they could do the least injury to the sufferers. The Right Hon. Gentleman had said, that if they agreed to the motion, they would create a considerable confusion in this town to-morrow; could he say, if they did not agree to it, what would be the confusion in the country this day twelve months or two years (*hear*)? He was convinced that they could not go on without changing the whole property of the country. He might call to the mind of the Right Honourable Gentleman that he was not now consistent in saying that low prices were now to be expected, as in the discussion on the Corn Bill in 1815 he had treated the return to prices before the war as an impossibility.—As to the plan of the Honourable Member for Portarlington, the country had never had the benefit of it, and if in all its simplicity and all its rigour it was likely to be beneficial to the country, he (Lord A. Hamilton) would vote for it. The Hon. Member (Mr. Ricardo) had proposed to pay in bullion. Instead of bullion coin had been substituted, and the Bank, acting as it always had done on the subject of the currency, with improvidence, had anticipated the time of the payment. He deprecated the idea of adopting any measure on the mere strength of authority. They had great authority for the Bank Restriction Act; the great source of mischief, the *prima mali labes*; then, some years afterwards, they had the gross resolution of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that notes were equal to gold. They had then the Corn Law, supported by the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Huskisson), who had in his late Report declared that the forcing of cultivation on inferior soils (the direct intention and consequence of that Bill) had been the great cause of the misery of the Agriculturists. They had had a Bill to prevent gold from being sold for more than its denomination in paper, while they had passed a resolution to declare their value was equal. By the bye, when it was asked by the Right Hon. Gentleman, why they (the Opposition) had not, during the existence of the paper currency, proposed a Resolution to adjust all bargains, he might answer that they might have been met by the Resolution of Mr. Vansittart, declaring that there had been no depreciation. From that absurd Resolution, certainly the Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Huskisson) and the Member for Liverpool (Mr. Canning), had, to their credit, dissented from it. They had, however, subsequently joined the Ministers, and they had apparently joined in all their measures. After this, when it was said that the House should not stultify itself, he would say, that to stultify themselves was the way to true wisdom. After some further remarks on the conduct of Ministers, in relation to this subject, the Noble Lord concluded by saying, that though he was not sanguine as to a remedy, he should conceive himself wanting to his duty if he did not support the Motion.

Lord LONDONDERRY rose to address the House amidst a cry of "Adjourn!" He wished to ascertain the course of the proceedings. He thought it of great consequence that the subject should be at once disposed of, even though the House sat to a late hour; but if there were many Gentlemen who wished to deliver their sentiments, he should give way to the necessity of adjournment (*cries of "adjourn!" "go on!"*).

Mr. BROUGHAM said, he felt to a certain degree with the Noble Lord the inconvenience of adjourning the discussion, and if the motion had been met by a single negative, he thought it might have been advisable to have determined the subject in one sitting, but the Right Honourable Member for Chichester had opened so large a field for discussion that he saw no alternative but to adjourn.

Mr. BENNET moved that the debate be adjourned to to-morrow.

Mr. BROUGHAM remarked, that a motion of the Honourable Member stood for to-morrow.

Lord LONDONDERRY said, that from the usual obligingness of the Honourable Baronet, he shewed to favourable spirit of accommodation (*a laugh*). It would be of great consequence the subject should be settled to-morrow.

Sir T. LETHBRIDGE consented to put off his motion. He was not able then to fix a day for it.

The debate was then adjourned to to-morrow (June 12).

The great majority of the Members having left the House, the AT-TORNEY GENERAL moved that the Insolvent Acts Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Mr. CREEVEY moved that the House be counted; and there being about half a dozen present, the House adjourned.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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A Sixth Editor to John Bull.

The arrival of late English Papers and the consequent necessity of our looking into them for all the News that our readers naturally expect on such an occasion, has occupied so much of our time, that we regret the hurry with which we must necessarily revert to the subject of the *JOHN BULL*, and its odious and abominable calumnies.

We learn, that it is now under the management of a *SIXTH EDITOR*. After the secession or abdication of the Fourth, the original or First Editor had the direction of the Paper for a day or two, and superintended the publication of that Number in which the Letter signed "A SOLDIER," that signed "A SCOT," and that signed "A FRIEND OF MR. BANKES," appeared; and certainly three such Letters we hardly ever remember to have seen together in its pages, even in the worst and most violent of the periods of its past history.

That Editor, however, who made the *Fifth Conductor* of this Indian Print, has also resigned, we hear,—for what reasons we do not know—but the Paper is now under the management of a *SIXTH SUPERINTENDENT*, the *Coroner of Calcutta*, who was for a short period Editor of the *HURKARU*, and gave it up about six months ago.

The Public, however, who cannot be informed of these changes with the same rapidity as they occur—naturally look to the Proprietors of the Paper as responsible for its general management; and we do a service to those Proprietors in informing them, that tho' they may not have Friends bold enough and honest enough to tell them to their faces how deeply they are implicated, by the general sentiment of the community, in the "guilty productions," of which they suffer their Paper to be made the vehicle; yet we can assure them that there are few persons who do not think that they will fail in their duty to Society if they do not publicly state in their own pages, their entire disavowal of all participation in such scandalous aspersions as those lately levelled against us, and exert themselves to discover and drag before the world the miscreant who could so far disgrace their cause, sully their names, and injure the reputation and value of their property, by casting such a defiling stain on it, as will never be entirely washed out, until they zealously and publicly exert themselves to remove the odium it must leave on the name and memory of their Paper, as long as ever it may hold a place in public recollection.

The history of the past is before the world. What the future may produce we know not; and have no wish whatever even to suppose that the Sixth Editor of the *JOHN BULL* will form his conduct on the model of any of his predecessors. But as far as the Proprietors and their Paper and its interests are concerned, a blow has been struck from which they never can recover, for nothing can ever remove the impression of this disgraceful fact, that the Paper was originally set up, and through all its changes still professes to be continued, for the purpose of restraining and repressing the Licentiousness of the Press—stopping the spread of poison,—arresting the scattered fire brands, and promoting the cause of piety and social order,—while, with these professions sent forth on almost every change of management, we have seen one Editor after another and one Correspondent after another also, give utterance and place to more of calumny, more of licentiousness, and scattering more fire brands from unknown hands not merely to disturb the harmony but almost to dissolve the bonds of Society entirely, than was ever seen in any Indian Paper within the memory of man; while the Proprietors sit silently by as Spectators of this duplicity and departure from their own professions, apparently satisfied if they can draw their "guilty profit," and content to bear the "guilty unpopularity," provided it puts money in their purses. A needy Editor who writes for his bread, or an unknown Calumniator who sends his letter to feed his revenge without participating in any other profit than that of ruining the object of his secret hatred, is not morally speaking so culpable as a Body of Proprietors who have the power to see their property used for good and

honourable purposes, yet who sit silent while it is abused in being rendered subservient to the vilest and lowest arts of persons really deserving the appellation of Incendiaries, and yet neither apologize, disclaim, nor take any steps whatever, either to shew the world that they at least disapprove of such an abuse of public confidence and feel disposed to bring to the bar of public opinion the wretch who could make their property and their patronage and countenance the channel for such infamous conduct as that of the person signing himself Mr. Bankes's Friend.

There are, among these Proprietors, we know, some who have given us their private assurances of disgust at the conduct we reprobate. There are others who satisfy themselves with simply asserting that they have nothing to do with the management, and simply share the profits. We should be very glad to name them, so that the world might distinguish those who have the nicer sense of honor, and who think character of as much value as profit, from those whose feelings appear to be so absorbed in the latter consideration as to be blind to the importance of the first. The publication of their names and rank in Society would perhaps be considered personal, though as Proprietors of a Public Newspaper, they should not consent to share the profits of a Concern with which they are ashamed for their names to be publicly associated. What would be said, for instance, if half a dozen Proprietors of a large Boarding House in Chowringhee (not rented of them, but they deriving profits from its customers) having the power of appointing any Superintendant they pleased; should see this House, instead of furnishing wholesome food and rational entertainment for strangers or visitors, turned into a den of thieves, a haunt of assassins and midnight plunderers; and because, in being thus appropriated, it furnished more gain than before, should remain silent and take no steps to purge their property of such defilement? Thus far of the Proprietors of such a Dwelling; but of those who continued to frequent and encourage by their subscription and support, a public place of Entertainment such as we have described, with as much readiness when it was the resort of ruffians and bullies as when it was conducted in a more reputable manner, what would the world say? Would it not answer, Tell me your company, and I will tell you what you are?

Now, we contend, that a Public Paper is in all respects liable to the same imputations. If its Proprietors, where they can prevent it, permit it to be used for the secret purposes of the dark assassins of private character, and murderers of innocent men's reputation, they are in every moral point of view as much participants in the guilt as they are in the wages of such iniquity. If they cannot prevent their property being so misused, they are as much bound to destroy it, or change its nature, as any man having a mad dog in his possession would be bound either to confine it, or if he could not do that, to put it out of existence altogether, rather than silently and willingly see it run among his neighbour's flocks and herds, and destroy them by the venom of his bite; while those who aid and support a Paper such as we have described, by their Subscriptions, are all accessories to its prolonged existence, and in so far as the withdrawal of such support would shew their individual disapprobation of such systematic calumny and atrocious slander, they are bound in honor and honesty either to withdraw it, or to participate in the general odium which every thing connected with that Paper so necessarily draws along with it.

We have expressed ourselves plainly on this subject; because it is one strictly belonging to public matters; and because after the villainous stabs and assassin, like menaces of the Friend of Mr. Bankes, whose cowardly heart has shrunk from avowing in his own name and person what he had the baseness and meanness to utter beneath a mask, we are bound to speak plainly—and to appeal to the justice and generosity of the Indian Public, whether they will continue to countenance by their support, a Paper, the Proprietors of which either cannot or will not confine it within the bounds of honourable conduct, the Editors of which are charged so rapidly as to leave to the Public no pledge of safety or security; and the Correspondent of which can pour out as much

venom as they please, provided it be directed against the Editor of the JOURNAL, whose great crime in their eyes is that of having had prudence, industry, and ability enough to make rapid advances in public favor, to pay his debts, to surround himself with comforts, to add to his domestic pleasures, and in short to have obtained in the most hazardous and painful way that it could be obtained, the means of a happiness which they at once envy and endeavour to destroy.—That this is truly the character of the JOHN BULL Newspaper few will deny. Its Proprietors are permanently answerable to the Public for their duty to do at least what they can to make their profits spring from an honorable source. The Editors are answerable to the Public each for his own period of superintendence. The Contributors, being unknown, are answerable to a tribunal of which many seem to have little dread of them. But the Subscribers and Supporters of such a Paper, without whose assistance it could not exist a month, are all answerable to the Public, to their Country, and to Posterity, for the encouragement and maintenance of a Paper that as long as it has yet existed has been a disgrace to the Indian Press, and the very name of which will never be mentioned hereafter but with feelings of execration and abhorrence.

A Letter in the Wrong Box.

SPECIMEN OF THE OLD VERUM ATQUE DECENS.

The following Letter, which has evidently been put into our Letter Box by mistake, contains as fine a specimen as the most ardent admirer of the BULL could desire of the old style of the "Verum atque Decens," which seems about to be revived.—We publish it without the names, merely putting in the letters of the Alphabet in successive order, as depriving it of all point ;—but the Reader may see, by putting his own name or that of his male and female friends in particular places, how easy it would be to cast an imputation on the fairest character in the world, without the possibility of detecting the Author :—for this Jack Straw, like the pretended Friend of Mr. Bankes, is really a man of straw, and no more known to us than the Great Lama of Thibet.

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,

On my arrival here from England about a month ago, I was astonished to find a number of unprincipled Adventurers received in Society, and enjoying a fair reputation, of which justice requires that they should be stripped. Mr. A—, who made a fraudulent bankruptcy in Liverpool, is doing business in Calcutta as an Agent on a large scale. Mr. B—, one of your new Attornies, shows his unblushing front in the Calcutta Court, although Lord Ellenborough did all but order his name to be struck off the rolls at Westminster hall : Miss C— assumes all the airs of retiring modesty, although my friend Mr. D— of Sussex assured me, he saw her last summer, under Mr. E—'s protection at Brighton : and Mrs. F— since her return to India is living with her husband in the first circles, when it is notorious to every one who has lately travelled in the Mediterranean, that she has four husbands now living at Rome, Naples, Malta, and Alexandria.

I blush for my countrymen, when I see them thus duped by the most artful adventurers. But the hour of exposure will arrive. I only entreat the Public to suspend their judgement upon their characters until I have time to write to England, and obtain the necessary proofs of what I have asserted. When this packet arrives I pledge MYSELF to display a scene of iniquity and falsehood which will disgust and astonish every man of honourable feeling.

In these times of pernicious publicity you must be sensible that any indiscreet boldness on my part, (until next year when my Europe packet arrives), might bring down upon me a prosecution for libel or a challenge ; and would certainly occasion unpleasant remarks on my character and conduct, which I have private, but urgent, reasons for wishing at present to avoid. But again, Sir, I assure you that I pledge MYSELF to perform what I have undertaken, and remain for the present.

JACK STRAW.

Friend of Mr. Bankes.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

I have read the gentlemanly production in JOHN BULL, signed A FRIEND OF MR. BANKES, together with your able refutation of that contemptible and worthless manice ; but in my humble opinion, you rather demean yourself by condescending to reply to any observations in the JOHN BULL, in its present state of anarchy and licentiousness ;—and were I in your situation, I would not reply to any such sourrillity, until some extensible Editor was formally and publicly announced by the Proprietors, as is usual in such changes, however rapid they may be : you must wage a very unequal war, when your Opponents are a set of mischievous Devils and Compositors in a Printing Office.

I think, therefore, that instead of sending a long Reply to A FRIEND OF MR. BANKES, you ought merely to have said in the words of Othello—

"If thou be'st a DEVIL,
I cannot hurt thee."

I am, Sir, your's sincerely,

November 9.

PHILO-JOURNAL.

Varieties.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

I am an advocate for encouraging "AN ASPIRING GENIUS," but I fear the Petitioner who brought himself to the notice of the Public in your Paper of Saturday last, cannot hope to succeed if he be a PRINTER'S DEVIL in the office of the BULL, unless indeed these Devils, like Mr. Creevey, when Secretary to the Board of Controol, do nothing, and depute Devil's mates to do their duty.

In the BULL of Saturday there is a letter from "A SOLDIER," if from an Officer I hope for the credit of the profession he will either correct it, write no more, or defend the cause he has espoused in a manner more befitting his situation. Should the gross errors which pervade almost every sentence, be owing to the negligence of the Printer's Devil, the SOLDIER should expose his conduct, as he must be unfit to conduct the Editorial duties of even the JOHN BULL.

By the way, I have been anxiously looking for a notice from 'MERCATOR' in reply to "AN INHABITANT OF CALCUTTA ;" the latter appears to have worked himself into a frenzy, and appeals to his Maker against the mischief such writers as MERCATOR do, by setting the Medical Gentlemen by the ears, though he concludes with a sweeping compliment to the whole Fraternity, by boldly asserting that "with the interested jealousy, backbiting, detraction, and private slander, circulated both by Medical Men and their friends, to the prejudice of their brethren and in behalf of themselves, &c &c."

With such a conclusion it is rather difficult to know for whom he has taken up the cudgels.

The lessons this Student has learnt at the boasted University of Aberdeen have not taught him that wariness for which his countrymen are so famed, and although for reasons best known to himself, he may on this occasion have thought proper to drop his title of M. D. the mask is too flimsy to conceal from the Public that MERCATOR has probed him to the quick. I hope he will not stand forth again under false colors, though I must confess I should like to see MERCATOR's ideas on his testy and to use his own words "not very intelligible" production.

I am, your Obedient,

Chowringhee, November 9, 1822.

A. B.

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA THIS DAY.

	M. M.
Morning,.....	2 0
Evening,.....	2 25

Tuesday, November 12, 1822.

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Devil's Letter.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

My Wife and Daughters are quizzing me about the letter in Saturday's BULL, signed "A FRIEND OF MR. BANKES," and they swear that I am the author of it. Now, Sir, although I own it is very much in my style, and as nice a composition as I would wish to see, I must honestly confess I am not the Printer's Devil who wrote it, though I believe it belongs to one of my cloth.

The following statement may perhaps lead to the discovery of the author.

My Sister's husband's brother's wife's nephew's cousin is a Printer's Devil in the JOHN BULL OFFICE, and he tells me that whilst the Devils were puzzling themselves what to insert for the Paper—they passed a resolution *nam con* that they would have a touch at BUCKINGHAM just for a bit of a spree as they called it, and so they put their heads together and wrote the letter signed A FRIEND OF MR. BANKES.

This, Sir, you may depend upon as a fact, but if it is not, my sister's husband's brother's wife's nephew's cousin has told me a lie, (and they do lie most abominably in that Office); so, Sir, should this not be true, whenever A FRIEND OF MR. BANKES signs his own name, why I shall be devilish happy to make him an apology, and my sister's husband's brother's wife's nephew's cousin shall do the same to me, and if he does not, there will be "THE DEVIL TO PAY."

I am, (if your honor will employ me.)

Your humble Servant to command,

Saturday, November 9, 1822. — A PRINTER'S DEVIL

If our Correspondent's report is true, we can only say with Archbishop TILLOTSON, "The enemies we have to contend with, are not MEN but DEVILS."

Home Questions.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I am one of the many who have read with unqualified detestation and disgust, the innumerable and impotent effusions of disappointed malignity which have been thrust into publicity through that channel of filth and scurrility the Indian JOHN BULL. Yet I cannot but think, that the respectable and respected Editor of the CALCUTTA JOURNAL has descended to notice with too much frequency and detail, the many scandalous and infamous attacks on his public and private character, which have lately appeared in that "abominable Paper." It appears to me unaccountable, that any Editor possessing the commonest feelings of honor or having a grain of common sense, can patronize such execrable trash as that which has lately been foisted into the world by the redoubted "champion of truth and decency." If, as the Editor avows, (and I imagine there will be few sceptics on this head) that his principal purpose is to crush the Journalist, why, by encouraging such constant personal attacks, make him an object of public sympathy? such conduct, too evidently betrays that it is the individual and not his principles, that he is most at war with, and that his reason, if he has any, is the slave of his malignity. How otherwise could he for a moment suppose that the low, dull, stupid scurrility under the head of "Correspondence" could possibly advance the interests of his Paper; or that such an exhibition of systematic malignity could be viewed with any other feelings than those of disgust and abhorrence by the major part of the British Indian Community? It is true there has occasionally appeared an editorial article in which the Editor has entered the field of argument with some show of open Battle, but as soon as truth and reason have declared in his adversaries favor, he lets slip a pack of flaming Slanderees and Backbiters, against whom the spectators are scarcely more secure than his particular Enemy, who though surrounded with dangers is still hated and feared.

Your's, &c.

A WATER OF CALUMNY.

Remarkable Omission.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Seeing a Letter in the JOHN BULL of Saturday, signed A SOLDIER, and thinking it ought not to stand unnoticed, I penne the following:—

To the Editor of the John Bull.

SIR,

In your Paper of this morning, I observe a Letter, signed A SOLDIER, stating that the Editor of the JOURNAL and his Informant, who sent an obituary paragraph for insertion, had used a reference to No. 7, Royal South Barracks, without the knowledge or permission of the Officer residing there. In reply to this, I beg to state briefly that I communicated the paragraph in question to the JOURNAL, and that I also authorised the reference to No. 7, Royal South Barracks. I beg to add distinctly that this was done with the knowledge and consent of the Officer residing there, and of course the letter of A SOLDIER is without foundation.

I am, Sir, Your's,

A SAILOR.

I took this Letter to the BULL Office, and learned who the Editor of that Paper then was, to whom I handed the Letter and requested him to let it appear in his next day's Paper; he took the letter from my hand, and made an addition at foot of it, to the following effect:

"The writer of this Letter has communicated his name to the Editor, who from personal knowledge cannot hesitate in giving full belief to the statement."

He directed me to take the Letter to the BULL Printing Office, which I did, and gave it to a Sircar, with directions to let it appear in the Paper of to-day, but not seeing it, I waited on the Editor, who I found was another person who had but just entered on that Office, and who was not the person I communicated with on Saturday. He made enquiry about the Letter, but it could not be found; he then requested me to write another Reply to the SOLDIER, and it should appear to-morrow, with the reason of the omission in the Paper of to-day, but unwilling to risk another disappointment, I have sent it to you, to do with it as you think proper.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A SAILOR.

Mr. Scheidlenberger's Concert.

We had the pleasure to enjoy with as much zest and real gratification the Entertainment named above, as any one among the numerous and delighted audience could have done—and on the morning following it was our intention to have spoken of it with the praise and admiration it deserved. But while we were desirous of promoting the cause of Harmony, we had to repel the calumnies of one of the fiends of Discord, and all the time that we could snatch from the current business of the day was less agreeably occupied than in listening to the Divine Strains of Music, or in describing the impressions they had left after the sounds themselves had ceased. To-day again, our attention has been called off by the arrival of late English Papers, which we have been obliged to examine closely for the Heads of Public News. But entering deeply as we do into the enthusiasm and delight, which seems to have guided the pen of a liberal Contemporary who had more leisure but certainly not more inclination than ourselves, to describe this gay and happy scene, we readily repeat his description, which we deem sufficiently accurate to be literally transcribed.—

In progress to Mrs. J. Shakespeare's mansion on Friday evening last—we were happy to observe crowds of different vehicles proceeding to the same place carrying people with "music in their souls," all anxious to be at Mr. Scheidlenberger's Benefit Concert. The orchestra was at one end of the drawing room, in which seats stood as close together as they could. The audience was extremely full—and immediately before the orchestra sat Lord Hastings and the Marchioness, who looked ex-

tremely well. It had been settled that the Concert should open with a Grand Symphony by Paer, but it was afterwards thought proper to change the arrangement, and substitute in its place the Overture from Paisello, with which it had been arranged to open the 2d Act. In consequence of the unforeseen but unavoidable and regretted absence of a lady and gentleman who had undertaken to officiate in the orchestra—the cards, containing the plan of the Concert, were reprinted we believe at a late hour on Friday. Some way or other two sets of cards got into circulation, which rendered it difficult at first for a cursory observer perfectly to comprehend the real plan of the Concert. The Overture of Paisello was very well played, and Mr. Scheidlenberger was most ably seconded on the Violin. Indeed the Violin and Violoncello departments were in this and the other pieces of the evening conducted with great skill and effect—and as it is not our intention to give a very particular account of the whole proceedings of the Concert—we may as well remark here that in the instrumental department we seldom if ever heard amateurs who performed more in harmony and time, considering several obvious disadvantages—such as absence from rehearsal and a press of other occupations preventing that study which professors usually insist upon. We were very much pleased with the famous Polacca of Viotti—which in the second as well as the first Violin parts was exceedingly well executed; Pizzicato passages on the Violoncello which occurred in the Symphony of Paer (we believe) came in with the finest effect. There were if we recollect right no less than four or five Amateurs who performed upon the Flute in excellent style.

We come now to that portion of the entertainment from which we derived the greatest gratification; the performance of the Ladies who so kindly condescended to patronise Mr. Scheidlenberger on this occasion. We have no hesitation in saying that we never heard the Instrument played in a more brilliant, powerful, and elegant manner than by the lady who had the Piano parts in Spagnoletti's Pot Pourrie, the Concerto of Griffin, and the Notturmo of Kreutzer, (in which Mr. Scheidlenberger had the Violin). Her fingering in rapid passages especially, is wonderfully clear, neat, distinct, and nervous, nor did it in the least flag where great exertions were requisite, and this particularly struck us with respect to the left hand. Of the fair Vocalists who delighted the audience we want words to express our admiration. It is a very formidable thing we are free to confess, to rise even at a convivial meeting and make a speech. How much more formidable must it be for a lady to stand up and sing before a large and fashionable assemblage of people many of whom she is but slightly acquainted with, some of whom she is aware are connoisseurs, and for all of whom she cannot fail having a kind of awe! To make the voice obey the will with the most rapturous success under the disadvantages arising from the diffidence a person feel in such a situation—argues a great deal for the voice itself—and still more for the kindness and amiableness of the Individual who to please others undergoes such an ordeal. A lady whose vocal powers had often been mentioned to us, but whom we never had the pleasure of hearing ourselves before Friday night, sang that exquisite little song the "Red Rose" most beautifully. Her voice is one of great compass and she disdains little forced ornaments; accordingly the noble simplicity of her style of singing is immediately apparent, and places her science, taste, and natural pathos in the best possible light. The Lady who sang "the Bird" we had heard before at a private party, and heard her again on Friday evening with sensations of enthusiastic admiration. It is not for strength—grandeur or fullness that her voice is remarkable; but for its delicacy, unrestrained melodiousness, and above every thing for its indescribable sweetness and flexibility. There is something exquisitely thrilling in her *shake*; and a character of feeling and sensibility about her style of singing altogether, that were we requested to give an idea of it, we must refer the enquirer to his recollections of a nightingale, pouring forth its enchanting melody in a solitary grove. The same lady also sang the "Minstrel," (Dr. Clarke,) but we preferred "The Bird," for our own part, and at the end of it; and "The Red Rose," almost forgot for a moment where we were, and pulled back the word *Encore!* just as it was about to escape us whether we would or not. The young lady who sang "Bid me Discourse," (Bishop,) we had also the pleasure of hearing before at private parties, where the charms of her musical powers had called forth warm applause; it was therefore with increased satisfaction that we beheld her forming one of the fair choir at Mr. S.'s Concert. As we had fully anticipated she sang the song of "Bid me Discourse," in which there are some difficult passages, in a most delightful manner, for she was in excellent voice, and elicited the most felicitous "silver tones." Her style is very brilliant, and her voice of great richness and capacity. A lady and gentleman well known for their skill as well as fine taste in music, delighted the audience, particularly the lovers of Italian Music with Mozart's glee of "Sento oh Dio" and Andreozzi's Duo "Ah tu Sei." Dr. Percy's admired song of "Oh Nanny" was also sang by the same lady and gentleman aided by two other amateurs as a glee. Their voices harmonised most beautifully together, and were listened to with the sincerest pleasure. When they had finished we regretted internally that Dr. PERCY had not written treble the number of verses to "Nanny"—that we might have had the exquisite pleasure of hearing them all so sung. Of

Mr. Scheidlenberger's own performances during the evening—it is unnecessary for us to say any thing. We may place one word in juxtaposition with his astonishing command of the Violin—*perfection* between the acts—and during the intervals between each piece—many wandered into the spacious Verandah to enjoy the coolness of the air. Others were glad to take advantage of the refreshments provided in a contiguous apartment. Altogether it was an uncommonly pleasant evening's recreation, and great praise is due to the Lady who so kindly gave up her mansion for the occasion, and to the several Amateurs who came forward so handsomely to support an amiable man and accomplished musician. It is an odd enough coincidence, at least it struck us as such—that there was no professional assistance in Mr. S.'s Orchestra for his benefit. It was altogether an Amateur Concert—and one that did great credit to Amateur talents.—*India Gazette.*

Russians and Turks.—A letter from Sheeraz, of the 6th of September, mentions, that a report had arrived there of a hostilities having commenced between the Russians and Turks. This may have reference to former rumours. We doubt not but the sincere wish of Russia is for hostilities, but so far as we could judge from the posture of events by the last accounts from Europe direct, we would say in Editorial language, that the Sheeraz report "wants confirmation."

St. Andrew's Kirk.—His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General and the Marchioness of Hastings attended Divine Service yesterday morning at St. Andrew's Kirk. The text upon which the Rev. Dr. Bryce founded his excellent Discourse on the occasion, was the 2d. verse of the XXXIth chapter of the Book of Job—"Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might even come to his seat!"—*India Gazette.*

Prize Money.—We have been kindly favoured with the following extract of a private Letter received by the MARCHIONESS OF ELY:—"The question of Prize Money between Lord Hastings and Sir Thomas Hislop, was to have been brought forward before the Lords of the Treasury in a fortnight after the 6th of June, (the date of the Letter) but the bringing of it before them was very unexpected."—*Harkara.*

Shipping Arrivals.

CALCUTTA.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Nov. 10	Marchioness of Ely	British	B. Kay	London	June 19
10	Winchelsea	British	W. Adamson	London	June 16
10	La Seine	French	J. Housart	Havre de Grace	May 16
10	Danube	Amen.	G. Winslow	Boston	July 12
11	Mary	British	C. Penberthy	1. of France	Sept. 13

Shipping Departures.

CALCUTTA.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Nov. 10	Zeuu	French	F. Rouxel	Ile of France

Passengers.

Passengers per Honorable Company's Ship WINCHELSEA, Captain William Adamson, from London the 10th of June.

From London.—Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. M. Mitchell, Miss A. W. Morrison, Mr. Henry Beaty, Cadet. Detachment of His Majesty's 44th Regiment of Foot.—Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Morrison, Major J. C. Guthrie, Captains J. C. L. Carter, A. Brugh, J. Shelton, P. O'Rielly, and C. O'Neil; Lieutenants F. Hemming, J. Connor, B. Whitney, J. C. Webster, R. Williams, T. Eastwood, and A. G. Gledstones; Ensigns W. Sargent, B. Brown, and T. Robinson; Paymaster J. Allsopp, Adjutant G. Wollard, Quarter Master R. B. Halahan, Surgeon G. Jones, 20 Sergeants, 12 Drummers, 10 Corporals, 304 Men Rank and File, 43 Women, and 57 Children.

Passengers per Honorable Company's Ship MARCHIONESS OF ELY, Captain Brook Kay, from London the 19th of June.

From London.—Mrs. Perse, Mrs. Panks, Mrs. Smalpage, Mrs. Enderley, Mrs. Neyland, Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Crossby, Miss Row, Miss Garnet, Miss Neyland, Master Hilton, Sir H. Darrell, Bart. Civil Service, Charles Parks, Esq. Civil Service, and Mr. Biddulph, Cadet. 44th Foot.—Colonel F. Newbery, Major W. Perse, Captain J. Luard, Captain J. Enderley, Captain G. M. Greville, Lieutenant William Harris, Lieutenant William Sperring, Lieutenant J. Crossby, Lieutenant J. Hilton, Lieutenant J. Armstrong, Lieutenant A. C. Lowe, Lieutenant R. Daugles, Cornet C. F. Havelock, Cornet R. Collins, Mr. D. Prattee, Quarter Master, Mr. G. Neyland, Pay Master, Mr. Neville, Pay Master 11th Dragoons, Mr. J. Robinson, Surgeon, Mr. D. Murray, Assistant Surgeon, Mr. J. Blood, Riding Master, 289 Men Rank and File, 32 Women, and 26 Children.